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To the Osteopathic Board of Medicine,

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am writing to say thank you for approving the new legislation that will grant physician assistants who work for osteopathic physicians to have prescription privileges. I am a physician assistant who works for two otolaryngology osteopathic physicians. Three of my fellow physician assistant colleagues work for another ENT office in the Lehigh Valley. Their supervising physicians are allopathic physicians, and therefore they have prescriptive privileges. Over the course of several years these PAs and I attended the same graduate program and received the same training which included comprehensive pharmacology. We serve in similar capacities in the two offices and associated hospitals. I am looking forward to having the same prescriptive privileges as my fellow colleagues.

Physician assistants have been providing safe and effective care for their patients under allopathic physicians for many years. With prescriptive privileges, these physician assistants can work to their full capability and training. For example, my fellow PA colleagues mentioned above are able to better assist their physicians as they do not have to obtain signatures for patients they would otherwise be able to see on their own. This frees up the physician to see the patients who need the physician's care.

Prescriptive privileges will allow physician assistants to be of further assistance to osteopathic physicians, thus expanding the horizon for more offices to employ physician assistants. Additionally, these physician assistants will make health care more accessible and cost effective for our patients. The physician assistant will make the office more patient-friendly and effectively reduce the waiting time for the patient. This will allow the osteopathic physician more flexibility and time to take care of the more complicated medical issues. For example, in the office where I am now employed treats many allergy patients. Checking with my supervising physician every time I want to prescribe Singulair or Allegra takes away valuable time that he could be spending with a new patient, or one newly diagnosed with cancer.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to use all of my training to provide quality care to patients.

Sincerely,

Amy Harrington PA-C
Amy Harrington PA-C

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