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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Nov 14, 2008

Re: CRNP Revisions

To State Board of Nursing Members:

I am writing this letter of support for the CRNP Revisions (16A-5124). I have been a practicing CRNP since 1994. I feel the revisions will eliminate some of the barriers I face in my practice and improve patient access to the care they need.

Specifically, the change in schedule II prescriptions regulations will remove the barrier of 72hr limit. Currently, any patients I see in office who are in need of a schedule II drug can only get a 72hr script. This disrupts the continuity of care. Patients have found this to be an inconvenience in cost, time and effort as need to make additional trips to pharmacy and provider for follow-up script. I have faced this many times in current practice outpatient office for specialty practice.

Changing Schedule III and IV to a 90 day period will allow for patients who use mail order services to continue to be able to get all medications from same service. The previous restriction of 30 days forced my patients into a more costly arrangement to obtain medications.

I am of the opinion that removing the 4:1 Np to physician ratio will promote NP practices in rural areas and clinics and improve access to care for citizens of this state. Some NP's in this state have been unable to find enough collaborating physicians in order to practice legally. As you know, less physicians are establishing primary care practices. This problem will only get worse over time if we retain the ratio.

Sincerely,

Melody Ives, MSN, CRNP