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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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November 17, 2008

16A-5124: CRNP General Revisions
Attention: Ann Steffanic, Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
P. O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

As a nurse practitioner who has worked in oncology and hospice for over 20 years, I am writing to express my support of the new regulations which will extend the NP's ability to prescribe schedule II medication from a 72-hour prescription to a 30-day prescription. This will help CRNP's to fully manage their patients' needs in relation to cancer treatment and care, palliative and hospice care, trauma cases, chronic pain management, and behavioral/psych-mental health care. Currently, our regulations for prescribing schedule II prove to disrupt continuity of care for our patients and families and create an economic hardship for them. With limited schedule II prescribing, patients are required to make more trips to the pharmacy, additional trips to us as providers, all which require more co-payments and inconvenience for the patient. People with uncontrolled pain resort to utilizing emergency room services to get relief, which creates an unnecessary financial strain on them and our society. Families living in rural and under-served areas rely on NP's for care and are entitled to having providers that can provide care to their full educational levels. Maintaining the "status quo" creates a disincentive for patients to choose NP's for their primary or specialty care providers, and is counter to what Governor Rendell intended with the passing of Act 48 in 2007.

I also fully support the Schedule III & IV prescribing changes. This provision will allow CRNP's to prescribe Schedule III & IV from a period of 30-days up to 90-days. CRNP's will be able to participate fully in their patients' insurance pharmacy benefit plan, which saves consumers excessive co-payments and helps to coordinate their medication needs.

Please support these changes so that we are able to provide care that our patients need and deserve!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Powell', written in a cursive style.

Liz Powell, RN, MN, CRNP
Chief Operating Officer