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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Barry Waggy
10885 Cool Hollow Road
Greencastle, PA 17225

Ann Steffanic, Board Administrator
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
PL Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105

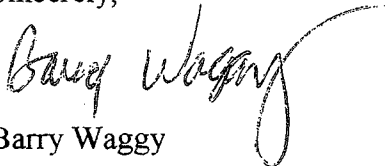
Dear Ms Steffanic;

As a resident of South Central Pennsylvania, I am in an area underserved by psychiatric clinicians. The state hospitals have closed, our Community Mental Health Center has collapsed, and there is a shortage of clinicians with prescriptive authority in psychiatry. I am aware that there are Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners who deliver expert care to the mentally in our area. Yet, these NPs have restrictions to their practice that does not exist in other states, such as our neighboring Maryland.

The ratio of 4:1 of NP to physician and prescriptive limitations add expense to the providers and the consumers. Providers have more paperwork; work with limitations of physician presence that do not add to the quality of care. The consumers have the burden more frequent visits to an NP adding expense in co-payments and transportation. Medicaid, Medicare and other health insurance organizations have higher expenses with an NP because of the more frequent visits required by the present prescriptive limitations.

I support the proposed changes in 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions and consider these changes as vitally important to the health of our community.

Sincerely,



Barry Waggy