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Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
P. O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649
November 18, 2008

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2008 DEC -1 PM 1:34

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Dear Ms Steffanic:

I wish to respond to the proposed 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions. There are several points I want to make regarding these revisions.

First, in regards to the 4:1 NP to physician ratio, in my experience this significantly restricts the access to care for many vulnerable citizens of Pennsylvania. Specifically women and adolescents seeking care at family planning centers, where free or low cost high quality women's health services are dispensed. The ratio limit restricts these agencies from providing health care to those most severely affected by economic and gender health care disparities. Providing barriers such as the 4:1 CRNP to physician ratio limits a significant number of citizens' ability to access one of the few safe and effective health care "safety nets" available to Pennsylvanians. I urge you to eliminate this barrier to health care access.

Second, the proposed regulations include extending the CRNPs' ability to prescribe Schedule II drugs for 30 days and Schedule III and IV drugs from a period of 30 days to 90 days. These changes will allow patients to avoid unnecessary health care visits for prescription renewals and will thereby reduce costs to patients. I believe this is a reasonable and responsible regulation, which will benefit patients, particularly those least able to pay for health care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these rule changes.

Sincerely,



Geri M. Budd
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