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November 19, 2008

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

RECEIVED

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RE: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

Dear Madam or Sir:

Please accept this letter as my support for the proposed legislation. As a practicing CRNP in private practice in rural Huntingdon I can say that these proposed changes will improve my ability to provide continuity of care in my underserved area.

In our practice there are two days a week in which there is no physician provider available for our 4500 + patients, on those days the responsibility is all mine. A large percentage of our Huntingdon patients are medical assistance, uninsured and/or Amish/Mennonite.

On those two days, if one of our many cancer patients needs his/her schedule II pain medication, I must either ask them to wait or give them a script which will provide only 72 hours of medication. This requires that the patient either suffer with the pain or make two separate trips to the pharmacy, paying 2 co-pays to receive their month's supply of medication. This adds a great deal of anguish to an already devastating disease for these patients and their families who look to me to take away their pain.

In addition, our one physician who is also the local Hospice Medical Director never gets the opportunity to go on vacation or relax fully, because even when I am on call for the practice, she continues to take call for the hospice patients because of my current prescribing limitations. Huntingdon already has a severe shortage of providers. Requiring a physician to always be on call, 24-7, increases the likelihood of burnout, which may result in her following the trend of family practice physicians to leave primary care.

Another common occurrence in our practice is for one of our ADHD patients to need a refill of his/her stimulant medication so that they can continue to be successful in school or at work. With the current limitations, these patients too must make additional trips to the pharmacy, costing them time and money, further decreasing their often already limited resources.

I also support the change which allows CRNPs to prescribe 90 days of schedule III and IV medications, because the largest local employer sponsored health plan (Huntingdon's 2 large state prisons) requests that these patients use their mail order pharmacy benefits to

keep down costs. In our current society where health care costs are spiraling out of control, cutting costs for the employee and insurer is always good business.

Please pass these regulatory changes as they will improve care provided to patients all across the state of Pennsylvania as well as in my small practice in Huntingdon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hollie Kratzer CRNP". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Hollie Kratzer, CRNP