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November 18, 2008

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

RE: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions


RECEIVED
2008 DEC -1 PM 1:34
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing in full support of 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions for nurse practitioners to provide quality care to the citizens throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

I have been a CRNP for 27 years who has practiced both in the primary care setting as well as currently in a specialty care setting. Nurse practitioners play an important role in today's health care industry. It is important for all patients to have a provider that can fully manage their health care needs including prescribing their medications. Nurse practitioners are competent, well educated, cost-effective health care providers who work within a given scope of practice. As nurse practitioners, we must take a full pharmacology course and must have 16 hours of continuing education credits every 2 years in pharmacology in maintain our credentials. We actively seek information and continuing education to stay current with the treatment modalities for our patient clientele. We are also patient advocates.

It is important for children with ADHD, for example, to have a CRNP who can prescribe their medications for a full 30 days so their life is not disrupted and they receive their medication in a timely fashion. Limited schedule II prescribing will create an economic hardship on families with more trips to the pharmacy, additional co-payments for the meds and additional trips and

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co-pays for us as providers. In addition, if the child doesn't receive his medication because of an inadequate supply, the child's ability to learn and function in the classroom will suffer causing detrimental consequences.

Nurse practitioners should also be permitted to prescribe schedule III and IV medications for 90 days so their patients can fully participate in their pharmacy benefit plan and decrease their out-of-pocket costs.

Limiting patient choice blocks access to care from those families who choose nurse practitioners for their primary or specialty care providers. This will further decrease the total availability of health care services in the state. I doubt this was Governor Rendell's intent when he signed Act 48 in 2007. Nurse practitioners play a vital role in the current health care system and can be part of the solution to the crisis we are facing. Nurse practitioners need to be utilized to their full potential in Pennsylvania as they are in most states throughout the country. I fully endorse the new regulations and ask you to give them favorable consideration as well.

Sincerely,



Joanne T. Moser MSN, CRNP