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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Norma Alicea-Alvarez, MSN, CRNP
425 McKean Drive
Wexford, Pa 15090
(724) 831-9215
nalvarez@zoominternet.net
November 21, 2008

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, Pa 17105-2649

Dear Ms. Steffanic

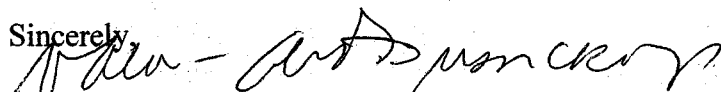
I am writing in support of 16A-5124CRNP General Revisions. Changing the regulations will ensure continued improved care to people in Pennsylvania. The highest priority is to remove restrictions that limit nurse practitioners in providing the highest quality care.

Specifically, the 4:1 nurse practitioner to physician ratio is unnecessary. Nurse practitioners are fully capable of monitoring their own practices and highly aware of their scope of practice thereby collaborating with a physician on an as-needed basis. The present restrictions are very limiting to health clinics, free clinics, and nurse-run facilities which rely on nurse practitioners to provide much needed services to a community.

Secondly, removing the 3 day restrictions to scheduled medications (II, III, IV) prescriptions is equally important. The present restrictions contribute only to disruption of health care and continuity of health care. Pediatric patients diagnosed with ADHD need medication daily and additional trips to the pharmacy results in disruption of medication administration as well as additional and expensive co-payments to the family who may not be able to afford them. In turn, the patient may go without medication required for an illness. Nurse practitioners who work in hospice care or prescribe restrictive pain medication must also be able to work within the full scope of their practice. The current limits also affect how insurance companies will cover payment for each medication.

Please consider the patients of Pennsylvania as well as the nurse practitioners who have been and continue to provide outstanding care. Thank you for your efforts to make Pennsylvania a healthier place to live.

Sincerely,



Norma Alicea-Alvarez, MSN, CRNP