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THE PEAK OF GOOD HEALTH
November 19, 2008

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing in support of the proposal to expand CRNP privileges. It is important to note the value of the contributions that the CRNP can bring to the clinical environment. The adoption of the proposal changes will allow for an increase in scope of practice which will only benefit our patient population. Other noteworthy benefits include: cost savings both to the patient and system, greater access to care and an improved continuum of care for the patient. Embedded into this practice lies a strengthening of the practitioner and patient relationship, which also translates into improved patient outcomes.

Specifically in lieu of the shortage of psychiatric services for our patient population, an increase in the scope of practice for the CRNP will allow for improved patient care and outcomes. Patient needs can be addressed in a more timely manner which will lead to a decrease in acute care services. The result is an improved quality of life and health status for this population.

Also, this approach lays a foundation to address future forecasted medical staff shortages. This will allow for strengthening of the CRNP role to better prepare us for future shortages, thus assuring no interruption in care for our patients.

I am hopeful that this proposal will be endorsed and approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

In support of our nursing profession,

Sherri H. Stahl, BSN, RN, MHA
V.P. Patient Services of Summit Health

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