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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To: The Honorable Mike Sturla, Chairman of Professional Licensure Committee

From: Ann Perry, CRNP

Re: Document No. 16A-5124

CRNP Nurse Practitioner General Revisions

Affordable and accessible health care is a top priority for all of our citizens. In 2007, Governor Rendell signed Act 48 allowing nurse practitioners to "practice to the full extent of their education and training". This means improved access to healthcare, especially in underserved areas.

I am a nurse practitioner with almost 17 years of experience. The large majority of those years were spent practicing in Pennsylvania at a busy family medicine practice in the city of Philadelphia. During my tenure there, I was able to assess, diagnose, and treat my patients but was unable to order physical or occupational therapies. This placed an unnecessary burden on myself and my colleagues translating to delays in care for our patients.

Another issue which greatly impacts our patients is the prescribing of schedule II-IV medications. There is always a great need for committed and qualified providers in hospice, pain management and behavioral health fields. Limiting the ability of qualified nurse practitioners to provide these prescriptions for 30-90 days would be a hardship for patients. Under these circumstances, patients often seek emergency care which disrupts continuity of care and is dangerous for the patient, the providers, and the already overburdened health care system.

Therefore, I am writing in support of the proposed regulations which remove these restrictions to nurse practitioner practice. Working within our scope of practice, nurse practitioners provide a much needed bridge to care for the people of Pennsylvania.