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3168 Mayflower Rd
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
November 27, 2008

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
RENEW COMMISSION

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Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing to express my support of proposed regulation #16A-5124, which would expand the scope of nurse practitioners throughout the Commonwealth.

Although I have been a nurse practitioner for a short time, the restrictions on Schedule II, III and IV prescribing has adversely impacted my practice. I am employed in a busy cancer center that treats over 80 patients a day, and has scheduled consultations and follow up visits as well. When one of my patients requires an opioid, I must seek out one of our physicians, which disrupts patient flow for both clinicians and detracts from continuity of care between nurse practitioner and client. It also leaves me with less time to adequately address other symptoms that are inherent in cancer and its treatment.

When I am working weekends and holidays, prescribing a 72 hour supply of opioids necessitates a return trip to our office for an additional prescription. This poses a hardship, both personal and financial, to already overburdened patients and families. The proposed change to Schedule III and IV prescribing will allow NP's to fully participate in many patients' pharmacy benefit programs, increasing client convenience and decreasing insurance copayments.

I have been an oncology nurse for over 15 years and have cared for cancer patients in a variety of settings. The relief of symptoms, including pain, is essential to quality of life for patients and their families. For cancer clients with advanced or terminal disease, optimal analgesia is the cornerstone of compassionate and palliative care. Nurse practitioners who work with cancer patients have the experience and expertise to safely and effectively manage pain with opioids.

Thank you for allowing me to express my support of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Carol Proud MSN CRNP OCN

Carol Proud, MSN, CRNP, OCN