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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 19, 2008

Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
ATTN: Ann Steffanic, Board Administrator
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649
Ref. # 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of new regulations expanding the practice of nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania.

I am a Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. I see a variety of patients. I have the training to exam, diagnose, and treat, but I am unable to utilize the education and skills I possess because of certain regulations. I can legally diagnosis and plan treatment for a patient with pain, attention deficit disorder, or insomnia, but I may not be able to provide them with the appropriate medication. This limits patient access to care, it increases wait and appointment times in the office, it adds time to physicians hours, and can be cost prohibitive to patients. I am routinely the only provider in our office on Fridays. This is a hardship for patients because no controlled substances can be given or refilled in adequate dosages on this day. If a patient has an appointment and is diagnosed with a disease process that requires a schedule II medication, their treatment may be delayed. Patients who have to pay multiple co-pays for medications that I write could be pushed to change practices or choose not to see me for their care simply because of these regulations. I urge you to pass these regulations as presented to promote and continue the profession of nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania. We, nurse practitioners, are truly patient advocates, partners with patients in their health care, and are very important in the future of Pennsylvania's healthcare system and the health of our communities.

Nurse practitioners are a cost effective way to improve access to high quality health care. Their ability to care for patients is of tremendous importance in the current health care crisis in our country and our state. I would like to see CRNPs utilized to their full potential in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Krist Williams CRNP

Kristen Williams, CRNP