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To: Ann Steffanic  
Board Administrator  
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing  
Re: 16A-5124 CRNP General Regulations

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am a proud patient of a nurse practitioner! As a disabled individual with the inability to hear or speak, obtaining health care and making my needs known has always been a challenge. I have been to other providers (doctors) and due to my inability/ difficulty with communication, I was considered & treated like I was an idiot! I may be deaf and mute but I am not dumb! Most providers did not take the time it is needed to make my needs known. I communicate by using sign language. Most times I am able to bring an interpreter or family member with me to my appointment. At times, if I come in for a sick visit, I may not have that luxury. My nurse practitioner takes the necessary time to it takes to make sure I am understood. One time we had an entire conversation on her laptop. She genuinely "cares" about me and her other patients. Because that is what NP's do- care!

I am in support of the necessary changes being proposed by the nursing board. This will allow NP's to provide "care" to their patients. To insinuate that NP's will not provide safe and appropriate care because of these legislative changes is as preposterous as people thinking I am dumb. They have the necessary education and training to provide competent care. I have never feared that the care I was receiving was jeopardized or substandard! Quite the opposite!

I appreciate the fact that some of the changes being proposed, might be met with opposition. I am fully aware of how barriers can place challenges on a person's ability to be productive I am asking that you please eliminate barriers that make it difficult for NP's to "care" for their patients. I am in support of the legal changes needed to make this occur. I may lack the inability to speak but I did wish to "voice" my opinion. Thank You