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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 25, 2008

Ann Steffanic, Board Administrator  
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing  
PO Box 2649  
Harrisburg PA, 17105-2649

**RE: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions**

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

I am a nurse practitioner student who will soon be greatly impacted by the current regulations for nurse practitioners. I am writing in support of the proposed new regulations that will affect the quality of care that we provide to our patients.

Nurse practitioners have extensive training in providing quality care to their patients. At present, a physician can only collaborate with four nurse practitioners. This limitation reduces access to care in rural areas, federally qualified health centers and free clinics. In many areas, there are simply not enough physicians for nurse practitioners to practice with the current mandated ratio. The 4:1 nurse practitioner to physician ratio should be removed in order to expand access to healthcare for those who need it most.

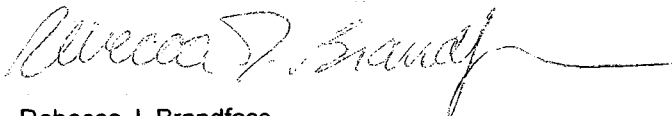
The proposed regulation extending the nurse practitioners' ability to prescribe Schedule II medications is crucial. Currently, nurse practitioners are restricted to writing a 3-day prescription for Schedule II medications. New regulations will allow nurse practitioners to provide a 30-day prescription, eliminating unnecessary co-pays and the inconvenience of returning to the provider and pharmacy to fill a new prescription.

I am also in support of extending Schedule III and IV medications for up to 90 days. This will allow patients who are suffering from a painful chronic illness to take advantage of 90-day mail-order prescriptions, and save them the time and money wasted when filling a 30-day supply.

Nurse practitioners currently provide quality care to much of our society; however, nurse practitioners are limited in their practice by current regulations. By updating the regulations that govern CRNP practice in Pennsylvania, we can ensure that our patients receive affordable, comprehensive healthcare.

Thank you for taking the time to address this matter.

Sincerely,



Rebecca J. Brandfass  
RN, BSN, CPN  
PNP Student at the University of Pennsylvania