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From: Jim Cristol [jcristol@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 2:44 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: No. 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 8, 2008

Dear Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman,
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St.,
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: No. 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

Please make efforts not to change the current definition of "collaborative agreements" between CRNP's and MD's. Indeed, these agreements need to be written rather than oral. Also, the number of CRNP's managed by a single physician should be limited, else patients are deprived of adequate collaboration between CRNPs and supervising physicians.

CRNP's should prescribe medications only already familiar to the supervising physician, and there should continue to be limits on controlled substances prescribed by CRNPs.

Patients should be made aware that they are being treated by a nurse and not a physician at the time of their visit to the medical office.

I understand the need for increased availability and affordability of adequate health care in Pennsylvania, but removing the physician from the health care equation is surely not an answer!

Eventually CRNP's will be making life and death decisions and Pennsylvania families will surely be unhappy when a member passes away, pronounced dead by a nurse, and never having been seen by a physician during the course of an undiagnosed terminal illness!

Thanks very much for your consideration!

James L Cristol, MD
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Penn Valley, PA 19072

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All the best!