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November 29, 2008

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Steffanic

As a nurse practitioner, I am writing you in support of the proposed CRNP Regulation General Revisions, which, if passed, would remove unnecessary restrictions on nurse practitioners that impede patient care, improve access to healthcare for Pennsylvanians and allow nurse practitioners to work effectively within the full scope of their practice, as authorized by Act 48. Nurse practitioners are licensed independent practitioners, who practice within standards, established and recognized by the State Board of Nursing. They are accountable to their patients, the nursing profession and their own licensing board. They are independently able to recognize the limits of their knowledge and experience, plan for the management of situations beyond their experience and to consult and refer as appropriate.

As an adult nurse practitioner in a specialty practice, my day is filled with aging patients with a multiplicity for chronic health-conditions which require access to such services as home health care, handicapped placards, and evaluation for other assistance services. They have chronic pain issues sometimes requiring the prudent prescribing of scheduled drugs. The current inconsistencies in our practice regulations only serves to cause confusion and undue burden of time and resources amongst our employers, collaborators and patients. While in my current practice setting the 4to1 NP:MD ratio is not an issue as we have 4 physician providers and only two nurse practitioners, I have previously worked in settings where the number of NPs has equaled and even outnumbered the number of physicians. In this setting, patient care and safety has never been compromised.

Recent negotiations with and comments from our physician leaders in Pennsylvania has made it clear that there is still a poor understanding, on their part, of the role and competencies of the nurse practitioner. It has become increasingly clear that in order to provide the best care and access to our patients, nurse practitioners must be regulated by and responsible to our own regulatory board, the SBON, and our own professional organizations.

With the goal of improving access to healthcare for all Pennsylvanians, please support the approval of these regulations.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Detweiler, CRNP