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From: Alwayslyon@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 1:47 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: re: 16A 5124

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

I am a board certified, Pennsylvania licensed family physician in Philadelphia. I am writing to request that you do not change the current CRNP regulations in any way that will further threaten the practice of primary care physicians. As I am sure you are aware, primary care physicians are under threats from many directions, including financially and from potentially damaging new CRNP regulations. Even more importantly, I believe that patient safety might be threatened if new CRNP regulations are promulgated.

In our practice we have worked with CRNP's as both employees and as students learning how to deliver primary care (through Penn's CRNP program). I have had the personal responsibility of supervising their care, and strongly believe that a written collaborative agreement is in the best interest of patients in a primary care setting. I also have had the personal experience of patients not fully understanding that their provider was a CRNP and not a physician. That does not seem fair to patients.

I support the current regulations that allow CRNP's to do their job under the supervision of a physician and believe that patients are best served by having that arrangement written down in a collaborative agreement, and having CRNP's required to identify themselves completely as CRNP's in each encounter. I also support that CRNP's should only be allowed to prescribe medications with which their collaboratively supervising physician is familiar. This last point is truly one of patient safety.

I hope these thoughts are useful to you as new regulations are considered.

Sincerely,
Thomas Lyon, MD
Mt. Airy Family Practice
760 Carpenter Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19119

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