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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

December 1, 2008

Reference Number: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

Dear Ann Steffanic:

I am writing to you to convey my support of the proposed CRNP regulatory changes. I am currently a practicing registered nurse at a major academic medical center in Philadelphia, PA, and carry a nursing license in Pennsylvania and Delaware. I received my bachelor's degree of nursing in an accelerated bachelors/masters program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to attending Penn, I received a bachelor's of arts from American University in Washington, D.C. I will complete the Adult Health Nurse Practitioner master's program at Penn's School of Nursing in August 2009.

While attending the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing, I completed a minor at the master's level in Palliative Care. I feel strongly that CRNPs are poised to order hospice services for patients and families. The average length of service days on hospice is currently 21 days, despite eligibility requirements indicating a patient's life expectancy within 6 months or less. The underutilization of hospice services affects the medical system at large by incurring astronomical hospital costs in the final days of a patient's life. Many CRNPs have previously worked as bedside nurses and have cared for patients and families nearing the end of life. As such, CRNPs possess the insight to order hospice services appropriately and to engage families in difficult conversations regarding palliative therapies. CRNPs are capable of bridging the gap between curative treatments and achieving a meaningful and compassionate end of life.

I thank you for your time and ask that you consider my support for the proposed CRNP regulatory changes.

Sincerely,


Megan E. McCrae, BA, BSN, RN