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Tammy L Ristau, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC
4 Maple Street
Warren, PA 16365

2008 DEC -9 PM 1:57

Ann Steffanic, Administrative Asst.
PA State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 1, 2008

Dear Ms Steffanic,

I am a Nurse Practitioner who is contacting you in support of approving 16A-5124 CRNP General Regulations. The proposed legislation changes will improve access to health care for Pennsylvania residents by expanding their scope of practice as authorized by Act 48.

Removal of the 4:1 Nurse Practitioner to Physician ratio will improve the access to care as there are fewer Physicians with whom to collaborate, a requirement to legally practice with prescriptive authority. This is especially a problem for those who practice in an urban setting. Unfortunately, there are fewer Physicians who are entering in family practice, which tends to make this a more difficult situation, as Nurse Practitioners are at the forefront of primary care.

I am employed in a Pain Management practice in a rural community setting. My collaborating Physician is also an Anesthesiologist, in a very busy office. The limits which are currently in place regarding schedule II, III, IV drug prescribing hamper my ability to provide adequate medication for the chronic pain diagnoses. It is especially difficult in this setting as the clients whom we serve are using many narcotic based medications and I must seek out the physician to be able to prescribe for their specific needs. Many have requested refills as well as 90 day supply in order to ease the burden of their prescription costs in these hard economic times. I am unable to provide these requests unless I seek out the physician to write the prescriptions.

I would appreciate your support in writing to the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing in favor of approving the proposed regulation changes that are now being requested. The proposed regulation changes would remove barriers to access of care for the residents of Pennsylvania and improve the quality of care that is accessible to our clients.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you very much .

Sincerely,

Tammy L Ristau MSN CRNP FNP-BC

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