

2729

December 2, 2008

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

RECEIVED

2008 DEC -9 PM 1:56

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

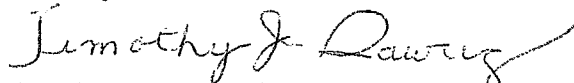
Dear Ann,

I am a registered nurse practicing in Philadelphia and also a graduate student in the family health nurse practitioner MSN program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. I am writing you today in support of the proposed CRNP regulatory changes (Reference no: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions).

As a RN practicing on an acute, adult, general medical unit I take care of patients frequently who have to be readmitted to the hospital because of noncompliance or a lack of follow-up care as an outpatient. A good percentage of patient's have chronic pain, which after they leave the hospital, is not followed up. Allowing CRNPs to prescribe schedule II drugs for more than three days would allow better pain control with more time to follow-up with the prescribing CRNP or, for example, make an appointment at a pain practice. CRNPs, because of their nursing background, have the unique ability to understand patients holistically and are therefore able to develop plans of care to meet the unique needs of each patient. By allowing CRNPs to practice to the full scope of their education and training, continuity of care, increased patient satisfaction, and a decrease in the use of emergency rooms for primary care concerns can all be achieved. The CRNPs I work with spend a great deal of time with patients, especially prior to discharge. They ensure that patients agree with the plan and understand what is needed to maintain or optimize their health.

After graduation, I would like to work with underserved populations in an urban setting, most likely in a public health center. By eliminating the 4:1 CRNP to physician ration, patients will have more access to quality care they need and deserve. It is my hope that I will be able to develop trusting relationships with my patients and provide the best care for them and their families. These regulatory changes will allow CRNPs to provide even more comprehensive care than they already do.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Sowicz, BSN, RN, CMSRN
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
418 Curie Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4217