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December 1, 2008

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Reference Number: 16A-5124 (CRNP General Revisions)

Dear State Board of Nursing:

I am writing to support the proposed revision of regulations that govern the practice of nurse practitioners in our state. Given the current crisis in health care access in Pennsylvania and across the United States, I strongly support expanding the ability of our highly-trained and highly-effective NPs to provide care to our citizens.

In my experience, NPs offer a special emphasis on wellness and treating the whole person, and they seem able to spend more time with their patients than doctors normally do. This ability to get to know the patient and learn about their entire health situation seems to lead to more personalized care that takes the patient's life and context into consideration.

Not only do NPs provide excellent care, but we can train and deploy them in greater numbers than doctors, and they are ideally suited to provide first-line care. For routine health care issues, the NP model makes a lot more sense than the MD alternative, and this also helps keep health care costs under control. The current restrictions on NP's seem counter-productive and wasteful; why don't we use these terrific providers to their full capacity?

Other states throughout the country have used NPs to an even fuller capacity than what is being proposed in Pennsylvania, and patients have been very satisfied with the quality and availability of care that they have received from their fully-empowered NPs. Please do everything you can to support and pass the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Schrand'.

Tom Schrand
Philadelphia, PA

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