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Meadville, PA

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 3, 2008

Board Administrator

State Board of Nursing

Dear Ms Steffanic,

I am writing to you to support the current proposed rulemaking on regulations regarding NP practice.

My current position as a Family Nurse Practitioner is at a Rural Health Clinic with four satellite offices in NorthWest PA. At this time it is difficult to find primary care physicians to serve in this capacity. Right now we are recruiting for another provider and do not have a candidate. This shortage makes it difficult for NP to find collaborating physicians. Patients in my community need access to services and removing the 4:1 ratio would help NP's provide primary care to this underserved population. This is in alignment with Gov. Rendell's plan for our state.

New regulations extending the length of time for Schedule II medications will help my hospice patients as well as my pediatric clients who have diagnoses of ADHD. Patients use expensive settings (Emergency Rooms) when prescriptions are limited, also, for those who come to an office setting there are extra appointments required, co-pays, missed school time or work hours to obtain refills for medications. Patients should not be burdened to go through these extra steps simply because of out dated regulations. Nurse practitioners have the education to provide this care and monitor these medications. Updating Schedule III and IV prescribing to 90 days is needed and will benefit patients by reducing co pays and meeting their pharmacy benefit plans.

In closing, the regulations regarding NP practice need to reflect the education preparation of our profession and quality care we can provide the consumers of our state. I thank you for your attention in this matter and hope you will support our goals in caring for our patients.

Sincerely,

Brenda McCloskey RN FNP-BC

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