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December 4, 2008

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

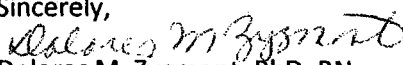
Dear Ms. Steffanic:

After carefully reviewing the proposed changes to Pennsylvania's nursing practice act, I urge the Board of Nursing to pass these amendments so that our patients can have improved primary care by advanced practice nurses.

I am the Graduate Program Director within the Department of Nursing at Temple University. In my role, I am responsible for ensuring that our nurse practitioner programs meet the highest academic standards, consistent with professional organizations' mandates and regulatory board criteria. Our graduates are prepared to extend primary care throughout many settings across Pennsylvania—and they need to be allowed to practice to the full extent of their capabilities, working in collaborative practices with physicians of protocol. These proposed changes are practical and overdue. We teach graduates to care for our citizens; these changes will greatly expand the numbers of practitioners who can offer care and will expand their scope of prescriptive management.

Our nurse practitioner faculty and graduates are prepared to meet the challenges of our health care system in crisis—please support them to practice with an expanded scope of prescriptive authority.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dolores M. Zygmunt, PhD, RN
Associate Professor
Graduate Program Director criteria