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*HUNTINGTON MILLS FAMILY PRACTICE*

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 4, 2008

To Whom It May Concern

Re: New CRNP Privileges

Dear Colleagues;

I have been working side by side with nurse practitioners for 15 years. I also teach for both the nurse practitioner programs and the physician assistant programs. I have been doing this for at least 15 years.

All mid-level practitioners are an asset to any practice; as long as they are well educated; trained by the supervising physician for that practice; and continue their CME as required. The schools for these mid-level practitioners would not exist if there was no need for their services. They do exist because we need them.

If the Pennsylvania Medical Society believes that the new regulations expanding the scope of a CRNP's privileges are going to create patient safety issues or quality of care issues then I disagree. It's a failure of our system if these concerns are real; not the nurse practitioners I've worked with or trained. Remember; it's the physician's work load and change in the medical environment that has created a need for mid-level providers. Once you fix these issues; then maybe we will no longer need mid-level practitioners. Don't put the blame on the CRNP's for desiring more privileges. I'm sure if there is a change being requested; it is because the physicians have placed them in compromising positions to help their practices.

In my experience; nurse practitioners are not out to compete with physicians; they just want to be part of a stable; interesting; ever-changing career. I have never felt my nurse practitioners have put me in a compromising position; have provided less than optimal patient care; or provided poor quality of medicine. If that happens; it is the fault of the supervising physician that hired them. I have no issues with nurse practitioners having these changes in privileges in our state.

Sincerely;

Donald J. Stone D.O.; F.A.A.F.P.