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Philadelphia, PA 19104

December 3, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

I am writing in support of 16A-5124 CRNP general revisions to expand the role of nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania.

Nurse Practitioners are essential in providing primary care to a variety of patients. The decrease in primary care physicians will increase the need for nurse practitioners to be frontline in primary care settings. The gap will only increase with limited 4:1 physician-nurse practitioner ratio. An increased ratio will allow more nurse practitioners to join physician groups, open more nurse practitioner run minute clinics, and better serve the under/uninsured population in free clinics. This will help to decrease healthcare costs and the overcrowding of many emergency rooms. The increased prescription privileges will help patients make fewer trips to a healthcare office and pharmacy, also decreasing healthcare costs while increasing patient satisfaction.

Nurse practitioners are competent and beneficial assets to the healthcare. They have shown to be compassionate and provide competent, cost-effective healthcare. The new 16A-5124 CRNP regulations will break down barriers to provide more direct and effective patient care.

Julie Heidrich BSN RN

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