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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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2077 Aster Road
Macungie, Pennsylvania
December 4, 2008

Dear State Board of Nursing Representatives:

I would like to add my voice in favor of the proposed changes in the upcoming vote on the nurse practitioner regulations. I have been an NP for about 12 years and have seen significant improvement in our abilities to provide patient care. We certainly have come a long way. However, I think that the decision to allow 30 days of schedule 2 narcotics and 90 days of schedules 3 and 4 controlled substances are vitally important for our patients. I work in a private physician office and routinely sign prescriptions for our patients. Without the ability to meet insurance company guidelines of medications for 90 days with 1 to 3 refills, patients must wait until the physicians have time to sign the prescriptions. Unfortunately, this may mean missing doses or postponing therapy in some situations. Since much effort is spent trying to encourage medication compliance, this delay sends confusing messages to our patients.

I also favor of deleting the NP: physician ratio. It makes sense that the decision is best left to the individual physicians and nurse practitioners with whom they collaborate. It should be guided by the type of practice, the participants and the locations rather than the state health care regulating bodies.

Please consider the benefits to these changes so that we can all serve our patients better.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Landis RNCNP

Karen Landis, RN, MS, CRNP