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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am a nurse practitioner in private practice in Phillipsburg, NJ. I live in Pennsylvania and commute every day to my office in New Jersey.

I would like to see the nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania move to a more autonomous role as they are in many of the states on the west coast. I dream of a day that nurse practitioners will be recognized for our value and reimbursed equally as our physician colleagues are for the services that we provide.

I practice in New Jersey because of several reasons. First of all I took over the practice of a physician who died, so it gave me a jump start on an existing client database. I also practice in New Jersey because the regulations make it somewhat easier for independent practice particularly as it relates to the issuing of controlled substance prescriptions and I am well known in the local area to the local vendors, hospital, area physicians, and other business associates.

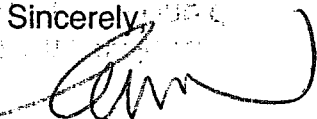
My recommendation for the recent proposed changes regarding CRNP regulations is to move towards more autonomous practice for nurse practitioners. I believe that nurse practitioners provide competent and cost efficient care. I also believe that by giving nurse practitioners more autonomy we will be able to provide more accessible health care to the community. I realize that the medical society and many physicians are opposed to nurse practitioners gaining more independence and autonomy; however, there are many nurse practitioners like myself who have diagnosed and treated many patients in which the area physician providers could not.

I have a very satisfied patient database and most would not go back to seeing a physician as their primary care provider again if given the choice.

It is time for nurse practitioners to be recognized for our value.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact me at 908-213-8808. I will be glad to do what I can to help Pennsylvania Nurse Practitioners. We need to make the necessary changes in regards to improving the regulations and removing barriers to help provide smoother and autonomous care for our patients.

Sincerely,



Louise Diehl-Oplinger, RN, MSN, APRN, BC, NP-C
Nurse Practitioner and Owner
Lehigh Valley Wellness Center