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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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VIA FACSIMILE (717) 783-0822
AND U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL

December 5, 2008

Ann Steffanic, Administrative Assistant
PA State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

The purpose of my letter is to show my support for the proposed regulation expanding the scope of practice of Certified Nurse Practitioners. This includes the removal of restrictions on the prescribing of Schedule II-V Controlled Substances. I believe that many concerns have been raised by the Pennsylvania Medical Society and I do not agree with those concerns.

I am a family physician practicing in York County since 1988. I am also a Senior Vice President of WellSpan Health and the Executive Director of the WellSpan Medical Group, which is one of the largest health system-related medical groups in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We have over 300 physicians and over 100 advanced practice clinicians, including many nurse practitioners.

Our model is one of interaction and collaboration between our physicians and our nurse practitioners. We have a senior physician designated as a supervising physician and we have found that our nurse practitioners have enabled us to increase the access of our patients to high quality, comprehensive care. Our nurse practitioners are crucial to our future strategy and even more so in light of looming physician shortages, particularly in primary care.

Our group is extremely supportive of expanding the scope of the use of certified nurse practitioners in our practices. I see no threat to the safety of patients by expanding the scope of nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania and I fully support the proposed regulation.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. McGann, M.D.
Senior Vice President, WellSpan Health
Practice Management
Executive Director
WellSpan Medical Group

TRM/acs