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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 8, 2008

Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
ATTN: Ann Steffanic, Board Administrator
P.O. Box 2649
Hbg, PA 17105-2649

Ref # 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing in support of the proposed changes in the CRNP regulations.

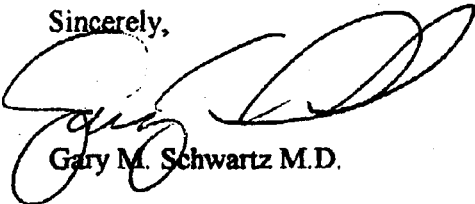
I am a Family Practice Physician in Cumberland County who works closely with a nurse practitioner. My experience with nurse practitioners over the past 20 years has been extremely positive. I have confidence in the education, experience and integrity of my nurse practitioner colleagues and in the excellent care that they deliver.

I agree with the proposed changes regarding the prescription amounts of Schedule II medications from the current 72 hour limit to allowing for up to a 30 day supply. This class of medications not only includes pain medications but also medications to treat chronic conditions such as Attention Deficit Disorder in both children and adults. Nurse Practitioners are perfectly capable of assessing the appropriate situation and medication for a period of 3 days as well as for 30 days.

I also agree with the revision to the amounts of Schedule III and IV medications allowed to be prescribed by CRNPs. The provision allows CRNPs to prescribe up to a 90 day amount. Both of the above changes will enhance continuity of care, decrease confusion, decrease the risk of diversion and will enhance improved patient compliance.

I also support the removal of the 4:1 CRNP to physician ratio. This also will improve access to care throughout the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Schwartz M.D.