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School of Nursing

Killebrew-Laporte Center for Admissions and Student Affairs
 M-10 Nursing Education Building
 418 Curie Boulevard
 Philadelphia, PA 19104-6096
 Tel: 215.898.8286 Fax: 215.573.8439
 kmccaule@nursing.upenn.edu
 www.nursing.upenn.edu

Kathleen McCauley, PhD, RN, BC, FAAN, FAHA
 Associate Dean for Academic Programs
 Class of 1942 Endowed Term Professor
 Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Nursing

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

December 8, 2008

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

On behalf of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support of the proposed rule changes affecting the practice of nurse practitioners in the Commonwealth. As Associate Dean for Academic Programs, I see the implications of these proposed changes as extremely positive for our current and future nursing students.

Our School is one of the top Schools of Nursing in the country offering, in the words of one of our program directors, "the most rigorous clinical decision-making education." Yet, our graduates are prevented from practicing at the highest levels of their ability by the current rules of the Commonwealth, leading them to practice in neighboring states such as New Jersey and Delaware where they can use their education, clinical expertise, and clinical judgment capacity to the fullest.

Removing the 4:1 CRNP to physician ratio will enable many more of our graduates to practice in clinics that serve some of the neediest and most vulnerable patients. With the current economic downturn, this population can only be expected to grow at a time when the Commonwealth is already experiencing a nurse shortage. Continuing the restrictive regulations will put unnecessary pressure on the neediest Pennsylvanians.

The education of nurse practitioners includes 500 hours of clinical experience at some of the finest hospitals in the nation and extensive knowledge of pharmacology. But what is most important is that the nurse practitioner learns exceptional decision-making skills and clinical judgment for assessment of patients' health care needs, for identifying and delivering care, and for mobilizing healthy environments. The education prepares them for evidence based decision-making.

It is time nurses were authorized to practice at their full capacity for the people of Pennsylvania. We emphatically encourage passage of these regulations.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McCauley
 Associate Dean For Academic Programs

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