

44 Green Hill Road
Luzerne, PA 19504
December 6, 2008

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

Dear Ann Steffanie;

I am responding to the proposed CRNP General Revision, Reference no. 16A-524. In the interest of the health care consumer of Pennsylvania our patients, I give these proposals.

First, CRNP's are educated, qualified and caring health care professionals who are perfectly suited to offer holistic health care to these consumers. CRNP's are well aware of the protocols in their practices, their limitations and the need to collaborate with or refer to physicians.

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Since CRNPs work in many of Pennsylvania's clinics, limiting the NP:MD Ratio limits consumers' access to health care. I've worked in Planned Parenthood clinics in this and another state where a single medical director was responsible for up to 20 CRNPs. This director or his designated substitute was available by phone during clinic hours plus made periodic visits to clinics for consultation. The system worked well and allowed quality health care to many consumers at the same time.

In these times of financial hardship, job losses and, consequently, insurance losses, many health care consumers are seeking care at health clinics or CRNP-managed centers. Let's allow consumers to continue their thorough care in these organizations without their

to have to rely on emergency boards. The latter uses our resources inappropriately and causes a much greater financial burden.

Another important issue is to extend the CRP's ability to prescribe schedule II medication to a 30-day supply. This will allow continuity of pain relief, hospice care, and mental health care. As a result, fewer visits will be made to emergency rooms when these consumers are in a crisis because of needs for refills. Caregivers will have shorter trips to obtain refills. Other long wait hours. All in all, it will reduce the physical and emotional suffering of our consumers and those caring for them.

In scheduling the schedule III and IV drugs for a 90 day supply would also significantly impact

health care consumers and health
care costs. Many insurance are
now supplying the majority of
their prescriptions in 90 day
mail order plans at a great
savings. I can attest to this in
my husband's insurance plan
offers this. It is a tremendous
savings, an important consideration
in a time of rising health care
costs!

Let's support these proposals to
offer the best, affordable health
care to our Pennsylvania residents.
Let's continue Governor Rendell's
plan as stated in Act 48 in 2007.
Our residents deserve this!!

Let's focus on our health
care consumers' needs, not
political issues.

Yours very truly,
Barbara Smith, CEO