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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 6, 2008

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

On behalf of the Pediatric Acute Chronic and Pediatric Oncology Nurse Practitioner Programs at 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.

Our Programs were the first of their kind in the country. The 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 those who can, 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's most important is 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 yours,
Terri Lipman

Terri Lipman, PhD, CRNP, FAAN
Professor of Nursing of Children, University of Pennsylvania
Program Director
Pediatric Acute Chronic and Oncology Nurse Practitioner Programs