



College of Health Professions
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December 4, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

This letter is in support of the proposed changes to the advanced practice nursing regulations in Pennsylvania. At Temple University, we are responsible for graduate nursing programs—two of which prepare nurses for advanced practice roles—and a network of community health centers offered by nurse practitioners.

The nurse practitioner academic and service programs are integral to the service mission of the University. The long-standing and deepening crisis in health care costs related to an inefficient delivery model can be positively impacted through expansion of services conducted by nurse practitioners. The patients served by our network of federally qualified health centers, offered collaboratively with the Public Health Management Corporation, receive quality primary care services focused on healthy life style management.

The nurse practitioners working in these centers, however, are hindered by artificial restrictions on their practice imposed through regulation. More patients can be served and more services can be provided if ratios of nurse practitioners to physicians are no longer mandated. In reality, the solution is simple. Please eliminate false ratios that restrict the number of nurse practitioners that any one physician can collaborate with—these health teams must be unhindered in their work. Additionally, the expansion of the nurse practitioner prescriptive authority can only help our patients. Thus, we urge the passage of expanded authority related to controlled substances.

In summary, on behalf of the College of Health Professions at Temple University, I strongly support the proposed changes to the advanced practice nursing regulations.

Sincerely,

Ronald T. Brown, PhD
Professor of Public Health and
Dean, College of Health Professions