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December 5, 2008

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

RE: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

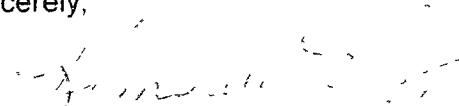
Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania would like to voice opposition to the regulation requiring that a physician can only collaborate with four CRNP's. As a major health care safety net provider in Western Pennsylvania, Planned Parenthood opposes rules that can limit our ability to provide more health services in a manner convenient for patients. Our organization provides services in both rural and urban communities and this rule poses a huge barrier by limiting our ability to expand hours of operation and to hire new providers.

A shortage of physicians in Pennsylvania requires that nurse practitioners are available to meet the demand for patient care. The present regulation limits patient choice and blocks access to medical care to those patients who choose CRNPs for their primary or specialty care providers. This in turn serves to decrease the total availability of health care in the Commonwealth.

Planned Parenthood's CRNPs operate under physician oversight following strict national Planned Parenthood standards and guidelines, whose adherence is part of Planned Parenthood accreditation. These standards were created by a National Medical Committee of acclaimed physicians.

CRNPs play a critical role in providing patient care for Planned Parenthood during this health care crisis. The 1:4 physician/ CRNP ratio limits the full utilization of these medically qualified providers. The passage of 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions will ensure that patients have access to the care they need.

Sincerely,


Kimberlee Evert
President and CEO

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President and CEO

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