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December 7, 2008

Kathleen R. Mahoney
Temple University
Coordinator of Adult Nurse Practitioner Tract

To: Independent Regulatory Review Board

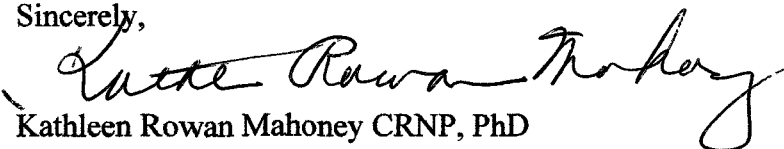
Re: Nurse Practitioner Bill

I have been a Nurse Practitioner for over twenty years, and currently Assistant Professor of Nursing at Temple University in Philadelphia, where I coordinate the Master's Program for Adult Nurse Practitioners. I instruct graduate students that a philosophy of caring and developing relationships is most vital to Nurse Practitioner practice.

Nurse Practitioners, as students, are aware of their role in improving and providing quality health care for their patients. Nurse Practitioner students are aware of their code of ethics and the rights of their patients. Nurse practitioner students are instructed on when and why to refer to physicians, and the necessity of this collaboration to continued excellent patient care. As a clinical instructor and nurse practitioner students also witness me with my patients and know the high value I place on the medical profession.

However, nurse practitioners do not need a collaborative agreement to continue their excellence in practice in Pennsylvania. Nurse Practitioners are team players and know the boundaries of their practice. Collaborative agreements conjure up old memories of nurses as handmaidens to the physicians. Nurse practitioners at times rely on physicians for additional expertise when managing patients and this will continue whether without a written agreement. The written collaborative agreement is unnecessary and thus builds a wall, and decreases trust, between physicians and nurse practitioners.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Rowan Mahoney CRNP, PhD

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