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October 14, 2011

Regulatory Unit Counsel  
State Board of Physical Therapy  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

**Reference Number – 16A-6514 (Act 38 of 2008)**

Dear Board Members:

In reviewing the proposed rules by the State Board of Physical Therapy, the Neumann University Physical Therapy Program would like to ask the Board to consider additional language pertaining to the proposed section 40.68(c). As a DPT program using 75+ clinical sites each year for our students, many of them in Pennsylvania, we support continuing education units (CEUs) being granted to clinical instructors and clinical coordinators of clinical education.

As you may know, there are 16 physical therapy programs and 13 physical therapist assistant programs in Pennsylvania. Thousands of physical therapists in Pennsylvania will dedicate literally hundreds of hours to the training of the students in these programs as well as students from physical therapy programs in other states. The role of clinical instructor requires significant time and energy, as well as clinical competence, and the ability to teach and assess student performance. From its inception our profession has relied on the volunteer model of clinical education to sustain itself. As our health care delivery system changes and therapists face continued regulatory and economic challenges, the volunteer model as a professional duty is increasingly harder to maintain. Awarding CEUs for clinical instruction will help to support the volunteer model and motivate therapists to take on the commitment of a physical therapy student.

Offering CEUs to clinical instructors is not a novel idea. Of the 39 states that require CEUS, at least 19 offer CEUs for being a CI. The neighboring states of Delaware, New York, and Ohio all offer CEUs for clinical instructors. We respectfully request that the Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy consider adding language that would award CEUs to clinical instructors.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Neumann University Physical Therapy Program

Including Pennsylvania licensed physical therapists:

Dr. Robert Post,

Dr. Scott Biely,

Dr. Heather Anderson,

Dr. Karen Albaugh and

Brigette Cuffia