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August 29, 2012

Kerry E. Maloney
Board Counsel
State Board of Pharmacy
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

2014 AUG 29 AM 11:40

RECEIVED
IRRC

Re: Reference No. 16A-5424 (pharmacy internship)

Dear Mr. Maloney:

I am writing in support of the proposed rule change regarding pharmacy internship hours. Having read the analysis posted regarding the requirements in other states and based on my own experience with new graduates, I am inclined to believe that this change to 500 hours from non-academic experience will in fact help Pennsylvania pharmacies and training programs recruit highly qualified pharmacists from surrounding states and incorporate them into staffing and service models more quickly. Such a rule change will not, however, eliminate the ability of the individual employer to differentiate potential pharmacist candidates on the basis of experience acquired above and beyond the minimum hours required for licensure.

Knowing the types of practice experiences my candidate pool acquires during pharmacy school, I am confident that the proposed change will only help me recruit highly motivated and highly qualified pharmacy school graduates and not negatively impact my ability to incorporate them into our model.

Regards,

Heather J. Johnson, PharmD BCPS
Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
Clinical Specialist - Transplant ICU, UPMC Presbyterian
Director, PGY1 and Transplant Pharmacy Residency, UPMC Presbyterian