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Senate of Pennsylvania

August 12, 2014

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Teresa Lazo, Board Counsel
State Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Re: Proposed Licensing Rules for Prosthetists, Orthotists, Pedorthists and Orthotic Fitters

Dear Ms. Lazo:

Constituents asked me to weigh in on the proposed rules that will govern the issuance of licenses of Prosthetists, Orthotists, Pedorthists and Orthotic Fitters in our state. The constituents have many years of experience serving people in Southeastern Pennsylvania that require orthotic shoes.

After speaking with medical professionals in my district, I have learned about the importance of allowing for indirect supervision in the area of basic orthotic fittings, particularly diabetic shoes and inserts. Due to the new licensure requirement for an Orthotic Fitter, there is a need to include a clarification for Indirect Supervision. This will allow non-licensed professionals to provide orthotic fitter services under indirect supervision of a licensee under the Act.

The medical professionals believe it would be helpful to offer the following as a clarification or as a definition to the licensing rules which clarifies the existing practice of some orthotic fitters:

Indirect Supervision – non-licensed Orthotic Fitters are qualified to provide patient care independent of a licensee; however, the licensed supervisor must review and countersign all entries in the patient's clinical record within 15 working days following the delivery of care. The supervisor must be physically available for consultation within 60 minutes during the delivery of care.

If you have any questions or require additional, information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Stack
5th Senatorial District

MJS/mff