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*A divisional society of the  
American Osteopathic Association*

**POMA**



**PENNSYLVANIA  
OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Joseph Scarnati  
Senate Box 203025  
292 Main Capitol Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 25

Dear Senator Scarnati,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), I ask you to oppose Senate Bill 25 which is scheduled for consideration in the Senate Professional Licensure and Consumer Affairs Committee on Thursday, March 27, 2019.

POMA is deeply concerned SB 25 will diminish quality of care and potentially put patients at risk. The vast gap between the education and training that physicians and CRNPs receive cannot be overcome by legislation. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) receive 12,000 to 16,000 hours of supervised postgraduate medical education during internship and residency. This follows vigorous undergraduate and medical school education. In comparison, CRNPs receive 750 hours of lecture and practice/learning hours during their training.

SB 25 will give CRNPs the authority to practice medicine independently without physician supervision by eliminating the current collaborative practice agreement. SB 25 will permit CRNPs the authority to prescribe drugs, including controlled substances, without any direction or guidance from a physician. In addition, CRNPs would act as primary care providers under state health insurance plans under SB 25.

There is no question that CRNPs play a key role in our healthcare delivery system, but the practice of safe and effective medicine is the overall responsibility of well-trained licensed physicians.

POMA urges you to consider the safety of Pennsylvania's patients when considering SB 25. All stakeholders recognize the need to ensure that Pennsylvanians have access to quality care; just as we all share a commitment to ensuring patient safety first and foremost. Again, POMA's firm belief is that this proposal will weaken standards and jeopardize that care.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or POMA's legislative counsel Bruce Hironimus at 717-236-1370 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Joan M. Grzybowski D.O.*  
Joan Grzybowski, DO

President, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association