



“Our first and foremost goal is to ensure the health and safety of Pennsylvania patients,” George Vermeire, D.O., President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA).

POMA opposes House Bill 100 and Senate Bill 25. We do support the “team” approach to medical care because the physician-led medical model ensures that professionals with complete medical education and training are adequately involved in patient care. Collaborative practice arrangements in reality permit CRNPs’ to practice to the full extent of their education and their comfort.

Osteopathic medical education includes:

- Four years of medical school, which includes two years of didactic study totaling upwards of 750 lecture/practice learning hours just within the first two years, plus two more years of clinical rotations done in community hospitals, major medical centers and doctors’ offices.
- 12,000 to 16,000 hours of supervised postgraduate medical education, i.e., residencies, where DOs develop advanced knowledge and clinical skills relating to a wide variety of patient conditions. Residencies are completed over the course of three to seven years.

CRNP education includes:

- Completion of a two-year master’s degree (much of which may be done online).
- 500 hours under a clinical preceptor, who may be another nurse. **This amounts to less clinical experience than a physician receives in just the first year of a three-year medical residency.**

Collaboration requirements do not prevent CRNPs from currently practicing in rural and underserved areas. The process of collaboration requires immediate availability of the physician by direct communication, radio, telephone or telecommunications; a predetermined plan for emergency services; and availability of the physician to the CRNP on a regular basis for the purpose of referrals and review of other medical protocols.

There is no evidence that doing away with this flexible safeguard and granting CRNPs independent licensure will do anything to improve access to care in underserved areas. With the continued evolution of telemedicine, the ability to collaborate is made easier, not more difficult. Consultations can occur within minutes. Chart reviews done easily using electronic health records.

“Medical professional shortages do exist in areas of Pennsylvania and we need to collectively advance ideas and remedies which will provide long term solutions, such as loan forgiveness programs,” George D. Vermeire, D. O. President, POMA.

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) proudly represents its professional osteopathic family since 1903. Our family includes more than 8,400 osteopathic physicians, residents & interns and 2,590 osteopathic students. Contact POMA: 717-939-9318, ext. 130.