



**American Association for
Marriage and Family Therapy**

Advancing the Professional Interests
of Marriage and Family Therapists

112 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: (703) 838-9808
Fax: (703) 838-9805
Website: www.aamft.org

December 19, 2008

Coalition for Patient Rights
C/O Account Director, Jennifer Weissblum
1025 Vermont Avenue, Northwest, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), a proud Coalition for Patient Rights (CPR) Steering Committee member, to offer support for the CPR mission of patient access to quality health care providers. The AAMFT is the national professional association representing the interests of marriage and family therapists (MFTs). We strongly believe in the efforts of the CPR protecting patient rights and choices regarding healthcare.

It is exciting to collaborate with the 35 organizations involved with CPR. Representing over 52,000 licensed MFTs and 27,000 MFT student and trainees throughout the United States, we share similar concerns about physician groups attempting to limit safe and effective patient care services.

With escalating health care costs and well-documented access to health care barriers, Americans deserve the opportunity to exercise choice regarding treatment providers and options. Whether advocating for increased seniors' mental health care access, veteran access to MFT family-based interventions, or for the availability of family therapists to serve the behavioral health needs of public school children, the AAMFT strongly shares CPRs dedication to the principle of equal options for all Americans.

The AAMFT looks forward to continuing the important work of this coalition in partnership with the other likeminded CPR member organizations. Thank you and please feel free to contact me directly, or contact AAMFT Government Affairs Manager Melissa Stamps at (703) 253-0445 or mstamps@aamft.org, with any questions or for further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Todd, Ph.D.
AAMFT Director of Professional and Public Affairs