



May 28, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C., 205000

Dear Mr. President:

As our nation's leader, you understand that America's healthcare system is at a turning point. Fueled by the demand for quality and affordability, now is the time to look for innovative solutions and to utilize existing resources to their fullest extent. We believe the more than three million healthcare professionals in the U.S. – who are not doctors of medicine or osteopathy – are critical stakeholders in the movement to improve our nation's healthcare.

Healthcare providers other than doctors of medicine or osteopathy (i.e., MDs or DOs) are well-prepared to provide a diverse array of safe, high-quality and cost-effective services to meet the growing healthcare needs of Americans. These professions were created to fill the gaps in service and to provide other benefits not offered by MDs or DOs, including a higher degree of personalized care, specialty services, greater accessibility and increased affordability.

With increasing demands on the healthcare system – including an aging population, healthcare provider shortages, spiraling costs and more than 45 million uninsured Americans – **all healthcare professions are essential** in order to advance the health and well-being of patients. As such, we urge you to support the utilization of a broad spectrum of health professions to ensure quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability.

We are certain you will agree that access and choice are fundamental to healthcare reform – and to America's values. All patients should have access to the provider of their choice and be able to obtain the type of care that best suits their individual healthcare and wellness needs. A national coalition of more than 35 organizations, the [Coalition for Patients' Rights](#) represents millions of licensed healthcare professionals **committed to ensuring comprehensive healthcare choices for all patients.**

There is a direct correlation between patient access to a wide range of healthcare provider options and more efficient, cost-effective healthcare. To help ease the burden on America's healthcare system, we encourage you to take advantage of the valuable expertise of these professionals and consider the role they can play in helping to shape America's health reform for a stronger, more productive system.

Thank you for your consideration. We commend the Administration for its attention to this salient issue. We look forward to contributing to the dialogue and would welcome a meeting with the Administration to discuss how our Coalition can support your efforts to improve healthcare and coverage for all Americans.

Sincerely,

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American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Association for Marriage and Family
Therapy
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Naturopathic Physicians
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Acupuncture and
Oriental Medicine
American Association of Occupational Health
Nurses
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Speech-Language Hearing Association
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools of Allied Health
Professions
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
California Optometric Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Integrated Health Policy Consortium
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in
Women's Health
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National League for Nursing
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Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society