

December 11, 2008

An Open Letter to the Coalition for Patients' Rights

Dear Coalition for Patients' Rights:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to express our support for the mission and goals of the Coalition for Patients' Rights (CPR). We applaud the Coalition's efforts to bring the larger healthcare community together to ensure access to safe, high quality health care.

Nurses have very high standards for patient safety, and play a critical role in providing essential healthcare services, especially to vulnerable populations. With shortages in various areas of health care (including nursing and nursing faculty), and more than 45 million uninsured Americans, nurses are a vital part of the solution to this country's healthcare challenges.

AACN supports CPR's efforts to foster collaboration among health professions. AACN encourages efforts to increase the pipeline of all providers to meet the growing demand from consumers. We support the rights of all health professionals to practice to the full extent of their education and expertise, and respect the unique contributions all care providers make to care delivery.

Together with the variety of other health professions represented in the Coalition for Patients' Rights, nurses stand ready to provide safe, high-quality, and cost effective health services that all Americans deserve.

Sincere regards,

Fay Raines

C. Fay Raines, PhD, RN
President

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING