

May 22, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of the board of directors for the National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC), to express our full support for the Coalition for Patients' Rights (CPR) and its goals. We are proud to be a member of the coalition's steering committee. The National Nursing Centers Consortium is a national association of nurse-managed health centers that advocates for nurse-led care. Our nurse-practitioner-run centers offer safe, effective and affordable care to medically underserved and uninsured patients with limited access to care. We strongly believe that patients should have the right to go to the health care provider of their choice. We will do everything we can to further CPR's goal of protecting patient choice and expanding access.

NNCC is excited to work with such a strong coalition of health care organizations. The providers represented by these organizations touch every aspect of our health care system, and give a unified voice to the concerns of patients from every area of the country. As national and state policy makers take steps to reform health care, and increase health insurance coverage, we must also make sure that there are enough health care providers available to care for newly covered individuals. Nurse practitioners and nurse-managed health centers are perfectly positioned to meet any increased need for providers, and can help alleviate current primary care physician shortages. By taking steps to protect the scope of practice for health care professionals from all fields, CPR is helping to ensure that advanced practice nurses can practice to their full potential when providing primary care and wellness services to those in need.

We look forward to working with other coalition members to continue CPR's important work. Thank you and please feel free to contact me directly, or contact NNCC's Health Policy Brian Valdez at (215) 731-7146 or brianv@nncc.us, with any questions or for further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tine Hansen-Turton
Executive Director