

July 31, 2009

Dear Coalition for Patients Rights (CPR) Steering Committee,

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses has participated in the Coalition for Patients' Rights since CPR's inception and reaffirms its support to ensure patients have access to the full range of qualified healthcare providers and can choose among them.

AACN believes this is an essential right within a quality, patient-focused healthcare system. Nurses are indispensable to attain AACN's longstanding vision of a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and their families. CPR's goals align with AACN's.

Collaboration among all healthcare providers is critically important to ensure the best outcomes for critically ill patients and has been widely documented. The 115,000 registered nurse members and customers of AACN collaborate to provide essential care for patients who experience acute and life threatening illness and injury. The advanced practice nurse members of AACN – acute care nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists – are leaders to ensure safe and quality care delivery. Advanced practice nurses represent a vital link in the transition from acute illness to wellness and productivity.

AACN proudly partners with our like-minded colleagues from CPR's 35 member organizations to further our shared goals. We applaud the Coalition's important work urging all healthcare professionals to work together to ensure that each one's contribution is respected and the full extent of each professional's unique education and expertise contributes to achievement of patient outcomes.

Sincerely,



Beth Hammer, RN, MSN, APRN-BC
President