

February 23, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C., 20500



Dear President Obama,

As a national coalition that represents more than three million licensed health care professionals, the Coalition for Patients' Rights™ (CPR) applauds your commitment to improving health care for all Americans. However, we were disappointed to see your Guiding Principles for health reform only seek to guarantee patients a choice of “doctor,” rather than a choice of “health care professional.” We ask that you consider revising this language to include **all health care professionals**.

As you know, physicians are not the only providers of quality care to America's patients. In fact, there is a broad spectrum of health care professionals, who are not doctors of medicine (MDs) or osteopathy (DOs), who are deeply committed to and well-trained for meeting the growing health care needs of Americans. We appreciate your public comments strongly in favor of “nurses and doctors,” and now ask you to recognize all health care professionals.

These professionals include psychologists, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses, therapists, naturopathic physicians, practitioners of Oriental medicine, optometrists, chiropractors, and many other licensed and certified professionals. They have completed years of education in their respective specialties and are held to rigorous licensing and certification standards.

As growing demands for health care services add stress to an already overburdened health care system, we also need to recognize the **value and cost-effectiveness** of health care professions other than MDs or DOs in advancing the health and well-being of patients. These health care professionals will play an increasingly important role in reining in health care costs.

We believe that patients are best served when they have access to a team of health care professionals who work together to ensure overall health and wellness. Access to a full range of providers is crucial for patients so that they are able to receive the right care at the right time – this means personalized care, specialty services, and greater accessibility and affordability.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss further with you the role that CPR's members play in improving the health care landscape.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Patients' Rights

***The Coalition for Patients' Rights represents
the following organizations.***

American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
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 Occupational Health Nurses
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
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 Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychological Association Practice Organization
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
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society