

Comment on *The Detroit News* editorial

“More Authority for Nurses Isn’t Answer” (4/26/10)

By J. James Rohack, M.D., president, American Medical Association

Posted by: CPR (4/30/10)

Dr. Rohack is right that a broad range of health care professionals is needed to meet the growing needs of patients in the U.S., but to cast the problem as a "physician shortage" rather than a "primary care shortage" is a mistake. Patients don't need titles, they need care - particularly primary care. There are many non-M.D./D.O. professionals who are well-suited for providing quality primary care and, time and again, research has shown that non-M.D./D.O. health care professionals provide comparable, if not better, care for patients. Divisive efforts to limit patient access to the health care profession of their choice does not serve the interests of patients. Each of the 38 member organizations of the Coalition for Patient's Rights is dedicated to providing high quality care to patients based on their education and training, and they are a key part of addressing the primary care shortage. www.patientsrightscoalition.org.

To read the editorial: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20100426/OPINION01/4260305>