

May 15, 2009

Via E-Mail [kelly.hall@mail.house.gov]

Representative Allyson Schwartz
U.S. House of Representatives
330 Cannon Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz,

The members of the Nurse Practitioner Roundtable (listed below) would like to thank you for the introduction of the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act, H.R. 2350. We look forward to working with you on securing the passage of this bill in the 111th Congress.

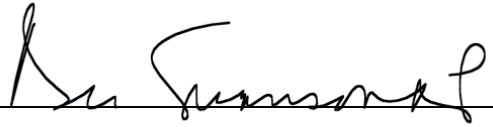
Your legislation to increase the number of primary care providers and improve patient access to primary care is both insightful and innovative. Your inclusion of nurse practitioners in this bill reinforces that nurse practitioners are an important part of the solution to the primary care crisis in the country at this time. Their advanced preparation in primary care practice renders them especially well-qualified to participate in the delivery of primary care services to individuals and families from all walks of life and at all socioeconomic levels. The inclusion of nurse practitioners in your legislation supports the Institute of Medicine (IOM) definition of primary care (“the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients and practicing in the context of family and community”).

The nurse practitioner’s scope of practice includes a range of services including diagnosis and management of acute episodic and chronic illness, that is inclusive of health promotion, disease prevention and end of life care. Their practice emphasizes preventive, curative and integrated care services as well as management, teaching and counseling for health promotion and disease prevention. Nurse practitioners also serve as health care researchers, inter-professional consultants and patient advocates. They are highly prepared professionals whose educational programs are grounded in specialized scientific and theoretical knowledge obtained in graduate level education with expanded clinical skills.

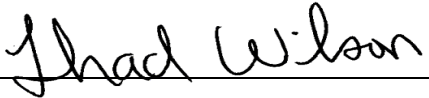
Approximately 80% of nurse practitioners provide primary care services throughout the United States. According to the spring 2008 report of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), nurse practitioners provide the highest percentage of primary care visits compared to other Part B providers in the Medicare Fee for Service Program.

We look forward to being part the solution which ensures the provision of high quality primary care to all of our citizens in the years to come.

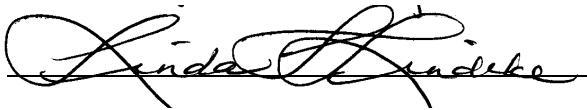
Sincerely,




Diana Swanson, MSN, NP-C, FAANP
President
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners



Thad R. Wilson, APRN, BC, FNP, PhD
President
American College of Nurse Practitioners



Linda L. Lindeke, PhD, RN, CPNP
President & Fellow
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners



Mary Anne Dumas, PhD, RN, FNP-BC,
FAANP
President
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner
Faculties