

# **COALITION FOR PATIENTS' RIGHTS**

8 June 2006 CONTACT:

Christopher Bettin, AANA, 847-655-1143

Catherine Sebold, ANA, 301-628-5198

Luana Bossolo, APA, 202-336-5898

**COALITION FOR PATIENTS' RIGHTS (CPR)**

**CALLS ON AMA TO CEASE DIVISIVE EFFORTS TO LIMIT  
PATIENTS' CHOICE OF PROVIDERS**

*24 health care organizations\* unite to ensure patients' a full range of health care provider options and the right to choose among them*

Washington, DC – In response to divisive efforts by the American Medical Association (AMA) and other physician groups to limit the ability of licensed health care professionals to provide care to millions of patients, the newly formed Coalition for Patients' Rights (CPR) today urged all health care professionals to work together to counter the AMA's actions. The CPR was formed to ensure that the growing needs of the American health system can be met and that patients have access to quality health care providers of their choice. The coalition represents more than 3 million licensed professionals who provide a diverse array of safe, effective and affordable health care services.

In a [joint statement](#) endorsed by the 24 health care groups\* that comprise the coalition, the CPR expressed concern about the negative impact on patients if their ability to seek care from advanced practice nurses, psychologists, nurse midwives, chiropractors, and many other licensed, qualified health care providers is limited. The coalition is calling on the AMA and other physician groups aligned with the AMA to cease their divisive efforts to oppose the established practice rights of CPR members. The coalition also seeks an end to legislation at the state level that would reduce provider options for patients. The CPR is especially concerned about efforts by the AMA and other physician groups that have formed the "Scope of Practice Partnership" to study the work and qualifications of "allied health professionals" in rural and underserved areas. "Limiting the ability of health care professionals to practice and provide appropriate care will place an enormous burden on the health care system," remarked Barbara Blakeney, MS, RN, President of the American Nurses Association, which is a member of the coalition. "As leaders of the health community, this coalition seeks to maintain the broadest range of provider choices for everyone," said Blakeney.

\* As of June 6, 2006

## *Coalition for Patients' Rights Page 2*

The coalition questions the objectives of the AMA and other physician organizations when they seek to advise consumers, regulators, policymakers and insurers on the ability of other health care professionals to offer the services they are allowed by law to provide. Health care providers are a critical source of care for patients throughout the United States, especially those who live in rural areas and medically underserved urban areas. Historically, people who live in rural areas have relied on a strong array of practitioners to meet their health care needs. Advanced practice registered nurses, social workers, and other professions that require rigorous educational preparation and ongoing instruction and certification are the backbone of not just the rural health care system, but the entire health care structure in the United States. "Organizations representing medical doctors (MDs) and doctors of osteopathy (DOs) are not in the best position to conduct a balanced and fair assessment of an issue that directly affects their reimbursement," said Mitchell H. Tobin, JD, Senior Director of Professional Practice Affairs for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, also a member of the coalition.

The coalition asserts that the AMA's actions affect the entire health care community and all current and potential patients. "Health care professionals other than MDs and DOs have been key to assuring access to care for millions of patients in rural and underserved areas. Given the difficulty that so many people have in getting needed care, now is the time for all health care professions to work together, not to work against each other to meet the need," said Dr. Russ Newman, Executive Director of the American Psychological Association Practice Organization. The Coalition for Patients' Rights is continuing to expand and invites other health care organizations to join. For more information about the Coalition for Patients' Rights, please visit [www.patientsrightsnow.org](http://www.patientsrightsnow.org) .

## **LIST OF COALITION FOR PATIENTS' RIGHTS MEMBERS AND CONTACTS**

### Organization Name Telephone

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Nancy McMurrey 512-276-5903  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing Robert Rosseter 202-463-6930  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Christopher Bettin 847-655-1143  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Marilyn Petterson 949-362-2020  
American College of Nurse-Midwives 240-485-1800  
American College of Nurse Practitioners 202-659-2190  
American Nephrology Nurses Association 856-256-2320  
American Nurses Association Laura Diamond 301-628-5020  
American Physical Therapy Association Rachel Reiter 703-706-8548  
American Psychological Association Luana Bossolo 202-336-5898  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association Gail Kincaide 866-243-2443  
American Speech-Language Hearing Association 301-897-0104  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses 847-375-4710  
Assn. of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses 202-261-2400  
Emergency Nurses Association Meredith Klein 312-751-4197  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Christine Carson Filipovich 717-234-6799  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Karen Kelly-Thomas 856-857-9700  
National League for Nursing 212-363-5555  
National Nursing Centers Consortium 215-731-7140  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties 202-289-8044  
National Assn. of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health 202-543-9693  
Oncology Nursing Society Karen Hochberg 412-859-6236  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association Sue Koob 608-250-2440  
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society Nicolette Zuecca 856-439-0500