



Q: Do you know that there are 140,000 solutions to the Primary Care Shortage?

A: Yes, Nurse Practitioners

Dear President Obama and Members of Congress:

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) have been providing primary care in the United States for nearly half a century. As leaders in primary health care, the 140,000 NPs stand ready to enhance the provision of primary care to patients across the nation. NPs assess patients, order and interpret diagnostic tests, make diagnoses, and initiate and manage treatment plans – including prescribing medications. They provide primary, acute and chronic care to patients of all ages and walks of life.

The 2010 Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing*, recommends utilizing this health care provider group to its fullest potential. Four decades of research have established that NPs provide high-quality, cost-effective, comprehensive, personalized patient-centered health care with excellent outcomes. In addition to diagnosing and managing acute and chronic illness, NPs

place a strong emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention. They are skilled clinicians who include teaching and counseling individuals, families and communities as major parts of their practice.

NPs practice autonomously and in coordination with health care professionals and patients to manage their health problems and needs. They serve as direct care providers, health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants and patient advocates.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the undersigned organizations, on behalf of the 140,000 NPs licensed to practice in the United States, offer our extensive resources to you as you continue your important work to establish a reasonable health care agenda for our nation.

