



**Q: Do you know that there are 125,000 Solutions to the Primary Care Shortage?**

**A: Yes, Nurse Practitioners**

## Dear President Obama and Members of Congress:

As leaders in primary and acute healthcare, the 125,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) in the U. S. today are highly qualified to participate in the planning and implementation of healthcare reform programs as they are considered by your administration and must be a vital part of the prescription for increasing access to high-quality healthcare.

NPs have been providing primary care in the U. S. for more than 40 years. They are graduates of master's, post-master's or doctoral NP programs, with advanced clinical preparation to provide primary, acute, and chronic care to patients of all ages and walks of life.

A large body of research has established that NPs provide high-quality, cost-effective, comprehensive, personalized patient-centered healthcare with excellent outcomes. In addition to diagnosing and managing acute episodic 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 a major part of their practice.

NPs practice autonomously and collaboratively with healthcare professionals and others to assess, diagnose, treat, and manage the patient's health problems and needs. They serve as healthcare researchers, interdisciplinary consultants and patient advocates.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the undersigned organizations, on behalf of the 125,000 NPs licensed to practice in the United States, offer our extensive resources to your administration as you work to bring healthcare to all.

