



May 20, 2009

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz:

I am writing on behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA) to applaud your efforts to address the shortage of primary care providers by introducing the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act of 2009. ANA strongly supports this legislation because it recognizes the integral role nurses and nurse practitioners play in the delivery of primary care and helps bring the focus of our health care system back where it belongs—on the patient and the community.

The American Nurses Association is the only full-service national association representing the interests of 2.9 million registered nurses (RNs). Through our 51 constituent nursing associations, we represent RNs across the nation in all educational and practice settings. ANA believes that a health care system that is patient-centered, comprehensive, accessible, and delivers quality care for all is something that should not be a partisan or political issue.

The Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act of 2009 would provide scholarship and loan repayment opportunities for primary care providers who serve in areas with critical shortages of primary care services. Secondly, the bill would increase Medicare reimbursements for primary care providers, and provide Medicare payments for care coordination services, and monthly payments to practices which serve as patient centered medical homes. Moreover, the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act of 2009 aims to support an interdisciplinary model in which providers, physicians and nurses, are able to practice collaboratively and to the full extent of their education and licensure on behalf of the patient.

The American Nurses Association is proud to support this legislation and we look forward to working with you and others in the health care community to ensure that your vision of strengthening primary care becomes reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose D. Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN  
Director, Government Affairs