



**American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties**

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Stimulus Package Signed by President Includes Funding for Nurse Education and Health IT Assistance for Nurse Practitioners

On February 17, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2008, a \$787 billion stimulus package, into law. The expenditures authorized include a number of provisions which will help nurse practitioners provide quality, cost-effective care to communities across the country. The package includes funding for the expansion of the health care workforce over the next 1 to 3 years, including funding for the education of primary care providers through Title VII and Title VIII (professional nursing education funding program), and the National Health Service corps scholarship and loan program.

The package includes additional funding for medical care to the underserved through state Medicaid programs. Funding to help providers who serve Medicaid patients obtain Health Information Technology is included to stimulate the development of electronic medical records and communication. These much needed funds will be made available to nurse practitioner practices and nurse managed clinics that serve Medicaid patients.

The above listed organizations have worked collaboratively on behalf of nurse practitioners and in communication with the greater nursing community to sustain these very important inclusions in the stimulus package. Nurse practitioners have a long history of providing high quality and cost effective primary care. This includes the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic illnesses in patients of all ages. The funding provided in this stimulus package is vitally important to the provision of care by nurse practitioners.