

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Incorporated 1985

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January 7, 2009

President-Elect Barack Obama  
Executive Office of the President-Elect  
451 6<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President-Elect Obama:

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, on behalf of the 125,000 nurse practitioners licensed to practice in the United States, congratulates you on a truly historic achievement. We are writing to offer our resources to your administration as you work to bring health care to all citizens of this great country.

As you know, nurse practitioners (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 and personalized health care with excellent outcomes. The body of evidence supports the fact that the quality of NP care is equivalent to that of physicians.

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 health care professionals and other individuals to assess, diagnose, treat, and manage the patient's health care problems and needs. They serve as health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants and patient advocates. As leaders in primary and acute health care, NPs are highly qualified to participate in the planning and implementation of health care reform programs as they are considered by your administration.

We know that you are receiving much advice and counsel from around the country and the world on a variety of issues. It is in this spirit, as the oldest, largest and only full-service national professional membership organization for NPs of all specialties, that the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners offers our resources to you as you begin the arduous task of bringing health care reform to the United States.

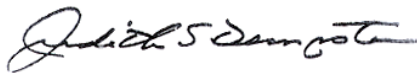
Enclosed please find materials that provide more detailed information about NPs and the vital role that NPs play in the health care of our nation. Jan Towers, PhD, NP-C, CRNP FNP, FAANP, director of the Health Policy Office for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, can be contacted at (202) 966-6414 or by email sent to [jtowers@aapn.org](mailto:jtowers@aapn.org). If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Towers.

We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Diana "Dee" Swanson, MSN, NP-C, FAANP  
President



Judith Dempster, DNSc, FNP, FAANP  
Executive Director

Encl.