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REPLACE SECTIONS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHT WITH THE CORRECT INFORMATION

The Honorable (name of senator)
Florida Senate
Division of Legislative Information Services, Room 704
Claude Pepper Building, 111 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Dear Senator (last name of senator)

As a Florida resident and a resident of your district, I am writing to urge you to support **Senate Bill 188 which provides Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP) the authority to prescribe controlled medications.** The passage of this bill will increase access to appropriate, cost effective and timely health care for Florida's residents.

I am a patient receiving high quality health care from my nurse practitioner provider. In Florida, there is a shortage of primary care physicians. ARNPs provide primary care and acute care in many settings including underserved areas. **Alabama and Florida are the only states that limit the ARNPs' prescribing authority to prescribe controlled substances.** Because ARNPs are prevented from prescribing controlled substances at their workplace, patients and families suffer delays and additional costs when referred to physician providers off site.

INSERT YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE or STORY HERE

By allowing ARNPs full prescription authority, you will be helping to reduce emergency room visits and increase access to care without adding any cost to the state budget. Furthermore, two separate studies conducted by the Florida Senate recommend extending authority to Florida-licensed ARNPs who have attained certification in a nursing specialty from a nationally recognized certifying entity to prescribe controlled substances under protocols and within the scope of practice for their specialty.

In the 48 states that provide nurse practitioners with the authority to prescribe controlled substances, **there is NO evidence that nurse practitioners are more susceptible to diversion of controlled substances than physicians.**

I urge you to support **SB 188 to allow nurse practitioners prescriptive authority for controlled substances.**

I thank you for your help with this legislation,

Respectfully,

YOUR NAME