

For Immediate Release  
March 19, 2010

Contact: Vicki Spitzer 850.566.5060  
Rachel Nicholson 850.445.5118

## **Media Advisory**

### **Nurse Practitioners Seek Lower Health Care Costs**

More than 250 Nurse Practitioners from across Florida, including every media market, will be at the State Capitol next week to seek better care for patients. The Nurse Practitioners, all of whom hold a Masters Degree or higher, have been seeking the authority to issue prescriptions for controlled substances for the last 16 years. Allowing the authority will improve care and lower costs. Only Florida and Alabama do not allow Nurse Practitioners to write prescriptions for controlled substances.

The Nurse Practitioners will be seeking the answers to three basic questions:

- 1). Why is Florida one of only two states that do not allow Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners to write controlled substance prescriptions?
- 2). Why has an October 2008 Interim Study by the Senate Committee on Health Regulation been ignored? The study finds no reasons not to grant prescribing authority. **A copy of the Senate report is attached.**
- 3). Why are HB 677 and SB 188 not being given a committee hearing?

**Who: 250+ Nurse Practitioners from across Florida**  
**Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010**  
**Time: 12:30 PM**  
**Where: Waller Park (by the Dolphins)**

It is estimated that granting controlled substance prescribing authority to Advanced Nurse Practitioners would improve health care outcomes, reduce costs, and provide up to a million Floridians with better and timelier healthcare.

Come meet a Nurse Practitioner from your area. We'll be glad to hook you up for a one-on-one interview.