

On March 24, 2010, the Florida Nurse Practitioner Network (FNP) will host its first **“Rally in Tally”** to promote the awareness of Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and their ability to help solve the crisis regarding access to health care. Nurse Practitioners are highly educated and skilled clinicians with Florida being home to more than 10,000 practicing NPs. **Currently APRNs are seeking to ensure continuity of care in Florida by eliminating barriers to access to care for patients. Legislation proposed will reduce barriers and promote continuity. This is reflected in Senate Bill 188 & House Bill 677 –designed to modernize the Nurse Practice Act and allow NPs to treat patients as needed, as they are able to do in 48 other states.**

The current health care crisis continues to worsen despite current efforts and only threatens to become a greater challenge in these hard economic times. APRNs have been in existence since 1965 and their education has become more rigorous each year. Most Nurse Practitioners hold a Master’s Degree and more are electing to obtain their practice doctorates to further demonstrate their commitment to meeting the challenging demands of our nation’s complex healthcare environment. Over 45years of NP practice have demonstrated the high quality and safety of NP care. In 2008, the Florida Senate Interim Report recognized the efficacy and safety of Nurse Practitioner practice and supported an effort for the legislature to grant full prescribing authority to Nurse Practitioners in Florida.

FNP already has more than 250 APRNs who have registered to attend this rally. Lawmakers and those impacted by this legislation have been invited to speak at this rally. Current guests on the agenda include representatives from the League of Women Voters, Florida State University, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and AARP. The welcome address and speakers will begin at approximately 12:30pm in Waller Park at the Capital building. **For more information on this rally, please visit the FNP website at [www.fnpn.org](http://www.fnpn.org) or call them at 1-866-535-3676.**