

Representative  
Alabama State House of Representative  
Montgomery, Alabama

November 17, 2007

Dear Representative ,

Please help improve the health and access to health care for the people of Alabama by voting for the enhanced use of the skills and caring provided by certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs). Your support is essential to reverse the deterioration of health status and health care availability in Alabama.

The people of Alabama suffer poorer health status and more frequent medical problems than the people of almost all other states in the United States, ranking 45<sup>th</sup> overall. This poor ranking comes as a result of near the bottom results for smoking, obesity, heart disease, premature death, infant mortality, children in poverty, and poor mental health. Alabama suffers from a shortage of primary health care providers, with only 5 counties having adequate numbers. We have all of these problems despite massive spending on health care.

The 1633 CRNPs in Alabama are an untapped resource to improve the health of Alabama. Several research studies have demonstrated that CRNPs provide as good or better care than physicians in primary care settings, patients tend to be more satisfied with NP care, and the care is cost-effective. Unfortunately, several barriers exist to the effective use of CRNPs to improve the health of the people of Alabama and lower health care costs. These include a lack of recognition of NPs as health care providers, prohibition on the prescribing of scheduled drugs, and highly restrictive requirements for NPs to have collaborating physicians. These barriers must be eliminated. Your vote will help.

Sincerely,

Kaye Heins, CRNP and Alan Heins, MD