

Thank you for providing this opportunity to address this important issue. The bylaws of our organization state that 2 of the objectives of NPNY shall be to “ 1)collaborate with other health professionals and utilize community resources to best serve the needs of our patients and 2) support and promote universal healthcare .”

In response to just a few of the questions proposed in the hearing notice :

1. Incremental steps can not achieve the other objectives. Only a single payer approach has the potential to meet the objectives noted in the hearing notice.
2. There are many factors contributing to the high cost of healthcare in NY. One factor to consider in addressing cost is the well established ,cost-effective and high quality care provided by Nurse Practitioners .
3. Providers are more efficient and have better outcomes when they manage the person/patient's care from a holistic, co-coordinated approach. Continuity of care is essential. The fragmentation of the current delivery system results in less quality , more cost and patient dissatisfaction . The example of the Montefiore School-based Health Center demonstrates that Nurse Practitioners deliver care that has impressive outcomes.
4. In a single payer system the young and healthy , the small or independent business , the farmer , the student , all New Yorkers share “ the fund(s) “ with each other in time of need. The underlying principle of insurance is that by establishing a large risk pool to which all members contribute and by investing those resources wisely , then all members can be protected from harm or loss?
5. see # 4
6. The only way to equitably fund healthcare is taxes. It is a given in New York State that access to transportation , education and police protection be supported by taxes . The health of a community is no less important.
7. Sadly , it may be unrealistic to achieve this kind of coverage on a Federal level in the immediate future . State Programs can serve as a model. New York can set the example .

The testimony by the New York State Academy of Family Physicians from 9/5/07 has already done an excellent job of addressing the above issues in more detail .
The testimony by The Capital District Nurses Association of 9/5/07 identifies the “ acute care system which treats episodic illnesses.” We need “ an emphasis on disease management.” “ The focus should be on the appropriate use of services ...” “One area to investigate is the use of appropriate personnel for specific aspects of healthcare. Nurse Practitioners have expertise in patient teaching and are effective practitioners in disease management .”
The testimony of The New York State Coalition for School-Based Health Centers give many examples of how the Nurse Practitioner can contribute to helping address access to quality care .
The work force problems in New York State are acute. The Nursing shortage demands immediate attention.

At this time there is ample testimony already submitted as to the problems and possible solutions. As Nurse Practitioners of New York we want to “ collaborate with other health professionals and utilize community resources to best serve the needs of our patients” and the people of New York State. We look forward to participating in this endeavor .
Please contact us and take advantage of the resources we have to offer.

Thank you.