As you all know, the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Although there will still be attempts to repeal the act or portions of it, either currently in Congress or through the coming elections, it is more important than ever that nurse practitioners step up to the table NOW. Two of the most important places to do this are in the insurance exchange and medical home arenas. A presence in each of these will be critical to nurse practitioner involvement in the future of health care in the nation.

**Insurance Exchanges**. As you know, the insurance exchanges are competitive state or federal insurance programs that will be made available to individuals who cannot otherwise obtain insurance. Most will be operated contractually with commercial insurance carriers. In the next few weeks, many states will be scrambling to put their own program in place to meet the requirements of the PPACA deadline to establish such programs within the next few months. If you or representatives of your state NP organization have not yet met with the Insurance Commissioner in your state, it is important that you do so now. We have found that many insurance commissioners are not clear about the NP role and that once they understand, they are very willing and anxious to have us at the planning table.

Nurse practitioners need to be recognized providers in the exchanges, this means participating and being reimbursed in the same manner as physicians. It will be our responsibility to see that this happens. Federal law, so far, has left the door open for you. In states that will not be creating their own programs, it will be important for you to clarify with your insurance commissioners that nurse practitioners should be included in all insurance programs being implemented within the state. It will also be important for you to continue to follow up with your state and federal legislators ( Senators and Representatives) to be sure they understand the need for inclusion of nurse practitioners and take steps to facilitate that action. Therefore, if you have not yet communicated with them regarding this issue, it is important that you do so quickly.

**Medical Home**. The center of most primary care programs being supported by the government is predictably the Medical Home. It is important to be sure that any Medical Home policy, practice or regulation being created or implemented recognize nurse practitioner practices as Medical Homes and nurse practitioners as medical home providers.. Again communication with your federal and state legislators ( senators and representatives) and your insurance commissioners is very important as we step out to further implement the PPACA) prior to elections. .

 If you have questions or need help, feel free to call Jan or Tay.

P.S. Good job with our campaign to obtain cosponsors for S227 and S2267. We managed to jam the system a few of times, but were able to resolve the problems quickly. If your federal legislators are still dragging their feet, don’t hesitate to continue to follow up. Some of them need more than one, or two or three reminders. Jan