



Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Formerly Florida Association of Advanced Practice Nurses PAC Inc/ CAP-PAC INC

For Immediate release  
November 18, 2012

for more information contact:  
Stan Whittaker: 850-545-8301  
Susan Lynch: 386-717-6180

### **Medicaid Waiver will force Nurse Practitioner clinics to close.**

**Under current law, an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) may contract directly with Medicaid and receive payment for services in the Medicaid Fee for Service program. When the new Medicaid Waiver goes into effect, all of that will change.**

**With the new Medicaid waiver, only a physician will be able to contract with Florida's Medicaid HMOs.** According to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), outdated state nurse practice laws and DEA restrictions prevent Medicaid HMOs from contracting directly with ARNPs.

**Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) account for 20 percent of all primary care Medicaid Fee for Service providers in Florida.** Many ARNPs own clinics that care for these patients, especially in rural areas

If an ARNP wants to continue caring for Medicaid patients, the ARNP will have to locate a physician who will agree to contract with a Medicaid HMO. The ARNP will have to work under the contract of that physician. The physician will bill for the ARNP's services and the physician will get payment for the ARNPs services.

Most physicians do not want to enter into a contract with independently owned ARNP clinics, physicians who do so often charge the ARNP large fees for the contract.

The end result will force ARNP clinics out of business and reduce consumer access to health care. **Many ARNPs are already planning to close their clinics and move out of state. This will decrease care access.**

**"The Institute of Medicine (IOM) extensively researched the quality and safety of ARNPs, and recommended all restrictions on ARNP practice be removed.** The IOM research proves that ARNPs deliver safe quality care and improved access to health care." stated Stan Whittaker, chair of the Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners.

"With the Affordable Care Act now the law of the land, and the current shortage of primary care physicians, Florida needs to utilize all health care practitioners to their fullest extent." Whittaker went on to say.

**The Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners encourages law makers to update the laws preventing Nurse Practitioners from delivering care to the citizens of Florida.**