

NPA Supports Efforts that Improve Our Healthcare System (January 2017)

National Perinatal Association (NPA) is an interdisciplinary professional organization that focuses on perinatal care by promoting and educating health care professionals in the delivery of evidence-based, quality prenatal care to patients and their families. NPA advocates for the interests of perinatal professionals and the families they serve daily by attending policy summits, developing position statements, identifying policy priorities, and developing strategic partnership with organizations. NPA is equally committed to being the voice of pregnant women, infants, parents, caregivers, and families and their healthcare providers so that by working collectively, we can have the greatest positive impact on perinatal care in the United States and internationally.

As our nation undergoes a transition in leadership, the NPA Board of Directors reaffirms our dedication to promoting compassionate, ethical and evidence-based care to all pregnant women, infants, parents, caregivers and families during the perinatal period. This is a commitment that transcends all geographic, cultural, ethnic, gender, religious, or political differences.

NPA stands with the American Medical Association (AMA) in supporting healthcare reform. Current reform efforts brought about through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have increased health insurance coverage for approximately 20 million individuals and expanded coverage for young adults and children with preexisting health conditions. The ACA promotes preventative care, increases access to out of network emergency services and permits consumer autonomy in the selection of healthcare providers. In addition, the ACA offers patient protections related to maintenance of health coverage and rising costs. Healthcare reform expanded Medicaid insurance coverage to 33 states. The expansion of Medicaid extended health insurance eligibility and increased insurance coverage to economically vulnerable individuals, pregnant women and families. *This is important because we know that these individuals and families suffer from social determinants of health and have disproportionate healthcare needs and poor outcomes related to unequal access and quality of care. NPA believes that the accomplishments made in healthcare reform have improved overall health outcomes.*

As an organization built to align multidisciplinary decision-making, collaborative problem-solving and innovative teaching, NPA recognizes the need for interdisciplinary discussion, reflective planning, and disclosure of transparent and viable options when pursuing ongoing healthcare reform. NPA promotes the rights of vulnerable pregnant women, children and families to receive quality healthcare services regardless of socioeconomic status. NPA supports multifaceted, pragmatic and evidence-based approaches to improving care and promoting health and well-being for the perinatal population.

Healthcare providers comprise a large portion of the labor markets, NPA additionally provides support and education to interdisciplinary providers in order to deliver efficient and quality healthcare services. According to the Bureau of Labor, healthcare is a growing industry and it is expected to add over 4 million jobs between 2012 and 2022.

As stakeholders in perinatal health, NPA acknowledges the need for ongoing efforts to reform healthcare in our nation, NPA joins other healthcare and parent organizations in supporting healthcare coverage for all, reducing healthcare costs, and delivering quality healthcare services by skilled providers.

The NPA and other stakeholders urge the 115th United States Congress to build from the gains made from ACA. NPA encourages Congress to reform healthcare by instituting evidence-based models and practices that improve access, costs, and quality in our healthcare system. NPA stands ready to work with Congress to enhance the quality of health for the perinatal population and our nation.

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