Dear Dr. Williams,

The member organizations of the Coalition for Patients’ Rights (CPR) commends your organization’s May 2015 health policy statement published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) – 2015 ACC Health Policy Statement on Cardiovascular Team-Based Care and the Role of Advanced Practice Providers. This effort demonstrates a commitment by ACC to promote access and choice in healthcare. It is imperative that all professional organizations contribute to an environment where patients are able to select the quality healthcare professionals who best meet their needs.

We applaud your stance on healthcare team leadership in Section 3.1, specifically that team-care leaders “should be flexible, reflecting the specific needs of the patient at a particular time and setting... a nurse or a pharmacist may lead a team that organizes a chronic anticoagulation clinic; and an APRN or PA may lead a team that coordinates transitions of care. The leader should be the team member with the greatest knowledge and experience and the best qualifications for the leadership task at hand.” With reference to this and Section 3.2, CPR encourages recognition that each member of the care team is accountable for his or her own practice.

The CPR is a national multidisciplinary coalition of more than 35 health professional organizations representing more than 3.5 million licensed and certified healthcare professionals committed to ensuring comprehensive healthcare choices for all patients. As the U.S. population ages and healthcare needs shift and expand, healthcare professionals such as those represented by our professional organizations should be supported in practicing to the fullest extent of their education, training and licensure to meet the demand for services. Further, as millions of people continue to gain access to health coverage through the Affordable Care Act, it is critical to ensure that every qualified health professional can provide care to the full scope of their expertise. We recognize your organization’s efforts to ensure full and direct access to appropriate care, promote team-based collaboration and advance patient safety and quality healthcare for all.

CPR hopes ACC will continue to examine the ways that multidisciplinary team-based care representing the full-range of healthcare professionals to ensure patients have access to the quality care providers of their choice. We welcome any opportunity to support you in this.

Sincerely,
The Coalition for Patients’ Rights

The Coalition for Patients’ Rights’ members include the:
Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Academy of Audiology

www.patientsrightscoalition.org
American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians
American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy
American Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Naturopathic Physicians
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Congress of Electroneuromyography
American Massage Therapy Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Association Practice Organization
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists
Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Emergency Nurses Association
Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association
Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium
Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Board for Certification of Hospice & Palliative Nurses
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Oklahoma Nurses Association
Oncology Nursing Society
South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists