



Office of the Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

June 14, 2012

The Coalition of Patients' Rights  
c/o American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
222 South Prospect Avenue  
Park Ridge, IL 60631-2724

Dear Coalition Members and Affiliates:

Thank you for your letter to the Federal Trade Commission expressing support for a number of recent Commission-authorized competition advocacy filings regarding pending state legislation and proposed state regulations in the health care area. As you point out in your letter, health care competition is critical to the economy and to consumer welfare. The work which the Commission does to protect and promote competition in health care consequently constitutes a core part of our mission, and the Commission is committed to ensuring that consumers obtain the substantial benefits of health care competition, including greater access to quality care at lower prices.

I can assure you that this commitment to protecting health care consumers will continue. In addition to our wide-ranging law enforcement and research activities in the health care industry,<sup>1</sup> the Commission maintains the active competition advocacy program to which you refer, and the program is designed to assist federal and state regulators by providing information about the potential competitive impact of proposed laws and regulations. Our advocacy comments provide policymakers with an analytical framework that takes competition considerations into account, highlighting the potential competitive consequences of legislative or regulatory proposals, and calling attention to relevant research and reports by expert bodies (such as the Institute of Medicine).<sup>2</sup>

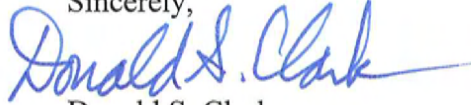
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<sup>1</sup> The Commission has placed an overview of its antitrust law enforcement program with respect to health care services and products at <http://www.ftc.gov/bc/healthcare/antitrust/index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> A complete list of FTC advocacies, including health care as well as non-health care issues, is available at [http://ftc.gov/opp/advocacy\\_date.shtm](http://ftc.gov/opp/advocacy_date.shtm). Advocacy by the Commission and its staff may comprise letters or comments addressing specific policy issues, testimony before legislative or regulatory bodies, amicus briefs, or reports.

Your correspondence has been forwarded to appropriate members of the Commission staff, and I can assure you that the information you have provided is being carefully considered. Thank you for your interest in the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald S. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donald S. Clark  
Secretary of the Commission