

June 23, 2011

ANNA  
East Holly Avenue  
Box 56  
Pitman, NJ 08071-0056

RE: Nurse in Washington Internship Grant

Dear ANNA:

I want to take this opportunity to thank the ANNA organization for sponsoring me as the 2012 Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) grant recipient. The program that was sponsored by the Nursing Organizations Alliance™ was very organized, informative and fun. I felt honored to be a small contributor to the 57 nursing organizations that are committed to promoting America's health through nursing care.

When meeting with Senators Boxer and Feinstein and House Representative Elton Gallegly's Legislative Correspondents, I felt very prepared to deliver ANNA's urge to Congress to maintain its commitment to the nearly 400,000 Americans with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), to support the increased funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs, and to support increased funding for Biomedical Research Patient Safety issues.

I returned home after this motivating experience, and assumed my role as President of the California Dialysis Council (CDC) working with our Legislative Advocate in Sacramento, Arnold & Associates. Our current quest is to convince the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that dialysis patients need special attention during the movement of the "Medi-Cal only" Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPD) population to Medi-Cal Managed Care plans in the Two Plan Model and Geographic Managed Care counties. Our patients in California are experiencing some problems with movement, and we are advocating that they stay in a Fee-For-Service (FFS) plan for at least a year until the contracting issues are resolved.

California Dialysis Council (CDC) has asked Governor Brown:

- 1) Protect Continuity of Care for Medi-Cal End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients moving to Managed Care. Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPD) ESRD patients have experienced delays with needed vascular surgeries and grave problems at transplant centers.
- 2) Oppose Medi-Cal Provider Rate Cuts. Currently, the subject of multiple pending lawsuits.  
***Update, the decrease was just overturned by the courts.***
- 3) Dialysis Patients need special consideration with movement to managed care and the impact it has with continuity of their care. SPD patients experience problems with transportation to their dialysis units.
- 4) Passive enrollment is not the best option. The LAO recommends that the Legislature reject the Governor's proposal.



**CDC Message: “If the Governor’s proposal to shift all dual eligible patients into MCMC does move forward, ESRD patient must be excluded or adopt language to continue their current coverage for one year if the treating nephrologist, dialysis clinical medical director, or medical director of a transplant center where the beneficiary is on a transplant waiting list, certifies that the beneficiary should not enroll into a MCMC health plan for the purposes of continuity of care for the beneficiary”.**

Locally, I met with Senator Tony Strickland at a breakfast sponsored by his campaign. I spoke with him personally regarding my concerns for California’s dialysis patients and their issues with “continuity of care” here in our state. I also gave him some take away reading materials concerning dialysis patients. He was appreciative of the information.

The ability for me to work with my state and local representative was really strengthened by attending the Nurse in Washington program. This quote was the key to the meeting in Washington, “If you are not at the table, then you’re on the menu.”

Thanks to ANNA for this enlightening experience to be part of the solution in the lives of our patients.

Sincerely,

*Debra Punch*

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