



## Colorado Rural Health Center

"Enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools & energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues."

3033 S. Parker Rd., Ste. 606  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Phone: (303) 832-7493  
From Rural CO: 1-800-851-6782  
Fax: (303) 832-7496  
Website: [www.coruralhealth.org](http://www.coruralhealth.org)

Senator Betty Boyd, Chair  
Senator Lois Tochtrop, Co-Chair  
Senate Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, March 5th, 2009

SB09-239: Sunset State Board of Nursing - Proposed Amendments

Serving as both the State Office of Rural Health and the state's Rural Health Association, the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) opposes any measures that limit or reduce the ability of Advance Practice Nurses (APNs) to practice autonomously and independently within their training and scope. APNs are sometimes the only healthcare provider readily available in rural and frontier counties in our state and adding a layer of unnecessary oversight to APNs is a threat to the rural healthcare safety net. The current Nurse Practice Act already contains language that defines professional nursing practice, which encompasses APNs. Therefore, CRHC urges the Committee to oppose any amendments that challenge the current statute which defines APN practice.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Terri Hurst, Policy Analyst  
Colorado Rural Health Center