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September 2, 2008

Dr. Joan A. Sheppard, DDS, Chair  
Oral Health Practitioner Work Group  
Minnesota Department of Health  
625 No. Robert St.; P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

**RE: The Nurse Practitioner in the field of Medicine**

Dear Doctor Sheppard:

The proposal of our community's need for an Oral Health Practitioner in Minnesota has been compared to the Medical Nurse Practitioner. I would like to address the facts surrounding this comparison.

The alleged need of the Oral Health Practitioner does not begin to remotely parallel the real need of the Medical Nurse Practitioner. The following information was given by the Park Nicollet Regional Medical Director, Dr. J. Clark, MD, JD.

It is common knowledge that fewer and fewer physicians are going into Family Practice Medicine, and are instead specializing. As a direct result, the Family Practice Doctor has become a minority in a sea of medical specialists. They are suffering from a shortage of manpower to treat patients. The Family Practice Physician is synonymous with a General Dentist, but the General Dentist is very definitely not in short supply.

The lesson to be learned is that the Medical Nurse Practitioner was created out of a real need to help Family Practice Physicians perform routine medical procedures such as blood pressure testing, verification of records and medical injections. The Medical Nurse Practitioner's work is also performed just a room or two down the hall from the Family Practice Physician who is always supervising their performance.

In closing, it has also been noted that the cost of paying a nurse practitioner far outweighs the value of a good family practitioner, so much so, that the Mayo Clinic has already begun increasing their numbers of Family Practice Medical Doctors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lloyd Wallin DDS". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lloyd Wallin, DDS  
Past MDA Trustee from the Saint Paul District