

The logo consists of a dark blue rectangle with a thin white border. Inside, the text "INDIANA COALITION FOR" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and "PATIENT-CENTERED CARE" is in a larger, white, sans-serif font below it.

INDIANA COALITION FOR PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care: Response Letter to ISMA's Indiana Physician Coalition

The Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care comprises healthcare professionals representing a variety of disciplines including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants, and Registered Nurses. Our Coalition was formed to create a patient-centered group of healthcare professionals with the mission of increasing access to high-quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care, particularly in underserved and rural areas. We work to expand the public's knowledge regarding the various healthcare professions available to meet the needs of patients and communities across Indiana.

Our Coalition is concerned about the messaging and goals of the newly formed Indiana Physician Coalition. The group, started by the Indiana State Medical Association and funded by the American Medical Association, is part of a campaign to prevent the modernization of professional licensure regulations for non-physician healthcare providers. A physician-centered approach to care seeks to establish physicians as the only profession qualified to lead patient care, stating that, without them, patients' health outcomes may be compromised by non-physicians. This approach creates a sense of mistrust in the quality and safety of care provided by other healthcare professionals; there is no valid research to support this claim.

The Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care believes healthcare should be driven by the individualized needs of each unique patient, not a hierarchy of professionals. We understand that the healthcare needs of a patient are dynamic. The realities of today's complex healthcare environment require an approach in which distinct professions offer unique and overlapping knowledge and skills. The healthcare needs of patients across Indiana and the nation are beyond the scope of any single health discipline.

During a time when our nation faces many unmet healthcare needs, we must prioritize ways to enhance access to high-quality, affordable care that improves health outcomes. Actions to marginalize other healthcare professions fail to keep patients at the center of our interprofessional efforts. Developing a diverse provider workforce that practices collaboratively to meet patient needs will address these challenges.

Modernization of professional licensure, with tested and established movements to expand access to high-quality, affordable healthcare, should be supported. The scope of services a healthcare professional provides is driven by their education and training. Decades of research supports the quality and safety of care delivered by non-physician providers. When healthcare providers practice at the top of their license, education and training, studies show access is increased, outcomes are improved, and costs are decreased. Our Coalition advocates for a patient's autonomy and the right of every person to choose their healthcare provider. In a patient-centered environment, these are the outcomes we seek.

The Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care believes that, through collaborative and interprofessional care, we can truly create a patient-centered healthcare system. This would ensure that decisions are not made in the self-interest and protectionism of a single profession, but for the benefit of each and every patient who seeks care.