

NATIONAL
PHYSICIANS
ALLIANCE

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**THE NATIONAL PHYSICIANS ALLIANCE CALLS ON HHS SECRETARY MICHAEL LEAVITT
TO RESCIND KEROACK APPOINTMENT**

Reston, VA -- The National Physicians Alliance is dismayed by the appointment of Dr. Eric Keroack to the post of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs at HHS. "Dr. Keroack's outspoken opposition to abortion and contraception makes him an unacceptable steward of the nation's Title X Family Planning Program," says NPA Board President Lydia Vaias, MD, MPH. "Control over the \$283 million intended for family planning and other health services should not be left in the hands of someone who has worked to block access to those very services."

Dr. Keroack has served as medical director of five "crisis pregnancy centers" run by an organization that not only refuses to distribute contraception or referrals to contraception providers, but that also publishes misleading information about the risks associated with induced abortion.^{1,2}

As physicians, we believe all Americans deserve full access to scientifically accurate and complete health information. Each year, five million women are served by the Title X Family Planning Program. We view Dr. Keroack's appointment as a direct threat to the Program, to the clients it serves, and to the protection of reproductive rights in this country.

The National Physicians Alliance is a growing, multi-specialty medical organization representing thousands of physicians from all over the United States. The NPA was founded in 2005 to bring a new health advocacy voice to organized medicine. Established by many former leaders of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), the NPA provides a professional home for physicians who believe in putting health before business, patients before profit, and profession above privilege. United across medical specialties, we seek to ensure equitable, high quality health care for all people.

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To learn more about the National Physicians Alliance, our strategic priorities, and what makes us different, please visit us online at <http://www.npalliance.org/>.

¹A Woman's Concern Pregnancy Health Services, *Policy on Contraception and "Emergency Contraception"* (online at http://partners.awomansconcern.org/images/misc/birth_control_policy.pdf).

²A Woman's Concern Pregnancy Health Services, *Health and Safety Checklist for Women Considering Abortion* (online at www.awomansconcern.org/images/health_and_safety_2006.pdf).