

January 20, 2011

Dear legislators:

My name is A.S. I live in Hardee County. It is difficult to get to a primary care physician in this town. Besides that, I work in Bartow, so I see a nurse practitioner there. The nurse practitioner I see takes care of me for migraine headaches, diabetes, and monitors me for rheumatoid arthritis so I don't have to go to the rheumatoid specialist as often. It is hard to get the care I need because I don't have health insurance. I have a job as a receptionist and I want to keep working, so I don't qualify for Medicaid or public assistance.

I am frustrated that my nurse practitioner can't help me with my anxiety disorder. It is mild anxiety, but sometimes it interferes with my functioning and with my quality of life. I have been on clonazepam at low dose for many years to control my symptoms. It stops me from ever having panic attacks and it helps me control my emotions so that I can do a better job at work. Florida nurse practitioners are not allowed to prescribe clonazepam or any other controlled medicines. This means people like me are unable to get the medications I need because it costs too much to go to another doctor only to get this one prescription. The ER is WAY too expensive. So, I don't have a choice or an option to get the medicine I need. I have to suffer from anxiety even though I know what I need to have done for me. I think it is REDICULOUS that the nurse practitioner can do everything for me but can't give me the medicine I need. That is REALLY STUPID and needs to be changed.

PLEASE CHANGE THE LAW.

Truthfully told,

A.S.