

FRANKFORT, Kentucky (March 17, 2010) - Governor Steve Beshear signed a proclamation declaring April 4, 2010, Kentucky Patient Advocate Day. The Proclamation that Governor Beshear signed is part of a national initiative by the National Patient Advocate Foundation to celebrate patient advocacy. Patient Advocate Day affirms a State's commitment to stand in voice and action as an advocate for the patient, based on principles such as:

- Access to prescribed healthcare is a basic human need and a shared societal responsibility across all Americans
- All patients, even those experiencing financial hardship, need access to timely and sustained medical care
- A serious diagnosis should open a patient's door to relevant clinical information; access to the medical care system; help reaching informed and independent decisions, and the benefits of appropriate support
- Continued, collaborative, and creative efforts among all levels of government, private industry, health care providers, and citizenry are required to overcome the challenge of ensuring healthcare to those in need and obstacles to progressive, fair, fiscally sound, and effective healthcare for all.

Kentucky State Policy Liaisons, Jim Meade and Col. Luke Barlowe with the National Patient Advocate Foundation, promoted the initiative with the Governor on behalf of Kentucky's patient population.

"I congratulate Governor Beshear on behalf of all patients for his forethought and careful consideration of improving access to healthcare for Kentucky," said Nancy Davenport-Ennis, Founder and CEO of NPAF. "Our organization is a valuable resource to legislators and others who seek to advocate for better outcomes and better lives for patients, since we answer calls for help, in many cases, during and after a health or medical crisis. We work first-hand with the difficulties that cancer patients and others with life-threatening diseases face, and can show where reform is urgently needed. Fighting the illness is only one part of the struggle."

By signing the Kentucky Patient Advocate Day proclamation, Governor Beshear joins his fellow Governors from Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming, who have already proclaimed a Patient Advocate Day.