Description: Nursing is often called the caring profession. But for whom are they being asked to care? I investigate these questions primarily through the case of the nurse practitioner (NP). I find that NPs not only address a different construction of problems for patients but also make visible the unspoken problems of employers and the state. Through this case, I consider the ways in which the nursing profession has become one of many privatized responses to the shrinking of the US welfare state and explore the implications for both patients and providers.

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