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THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION:
NURSING’S VOICE HEARD AT THE HEALTH REFORM DIALOGUE

SILVER SPRING, MD — The American Nurses Association (ANA) continues to work toward achieving meaningful health care reform through its participation with the Health Reform Dialogue group, a gathering of leaders from widely diverse national organizations that have pledged their mutual commitment to federal health care reform. Using the Health Reform Dialogue process, the group brought together stakeholders representing the health industry, providers, consumers, and business to build consensus on health care reform and to create political momentum among political leaders for passing significant health reform legislation.

ANA CEO Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, served as the principal representative to the Health Reform Dialogue, and ANA was the only nursing organization at the table. The Health Reform Dialogue group reached accord on several key issues, such as expanding health coverage, focusing on prevention and wellness, and increasing funds for developing the primary care workforce including education, loan forgiveness programs, and payment reforms.

ANA was instrumental in contributing language to the discussion that will result in gains for nurses and the patients we serve. ANA advocated for strengthening public safety-net programs that would increase coverage for all and for the inclusion of incentives that would allow all clinicians — not just physicians — to implement health IT. ANA was also instrumental in including the Institute of Medicine (IOM) language of primary care that is key to recognizing APRNs as primary care providers.

The Health Reform Dialogue is a noteworthy step in the health reform process. ANA is proud to have represented nurses in the endeavor and will continue to advocate for high-quality, affordable health care for all.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 51 constituent member nurses associations and its 24 specialty nursing and workforce advocacy affiliate organizations that currently connect to ANA as affiliates. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.