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June 8, 2009

Roger Greenblatt  
President, Entertainment  
Showtime Networks, Inc.  
1633 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Greenblatt,

On behalf of the American Nurses Association and the 2.9 million registered nurses who dedicate their lives to helping people everyday, I am writing to express my outrage and disappointment at the distasteful portrayal of nurses in "Nurse Jackie".

The lead character is shown as unapologetically addicted to pills and engaging in inappropriate behavior in the workplace. Images like this do a grave disservice to the nursing profession. The United States is on the verge of an unprecedented nursing shortage that threatens to impact the public's health. The growing shortage is exacerbated by the fact that young men and women are choosing other professions instead of nursing, in part because of the negative and often denigrating portrayal of nursing perpetuated in the media.

The truth is that nurses are knowledgeable, devoted and responsible professionals, facing greater demands in challenging workplace environments. Hundreds of thousands of men and women put their own health and well being on the line everyday to serve the needs of their patients, as part of a healthcare system that continues to overwork, undervalue and underpay them. I hope that in the future, Showtime will take a more responsible approach in its portrayal of nurses and nursing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR  
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