



***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

**S-CHIP FAILS TO WIN VETO PROOF SUPPORT, FUNDING FOR NURSE EDUCATION
ADVANCES**

Silver Spring, MD, In a setback for health care advocates, S-CHIP legislation failed to garner enough support to override a presidential veto. The ANA backed S-CHIP would provide health care coverage for 10 million American children. Lawmakers revised the legislation, clarifying language defining who would be eligible to receive health care under the plan. But the revised S-CHIP bill failed to win the two-thirds majority needed. The final vote was 265-142.

“Every child needs and deserves health care coverage,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “Ensuring access to safe, affordable health care services is the bedrock of ANA’s health care reform agenda, and we will continue to be an advocate for legislation that provides quality health care.”

The Senate has also passed the fiscal year 2008 Labor Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, which includes a much needed funding increase for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Program. The legislation would provide funding for the nation's nursing education programs and could serve to recruit new nurses into the profession, promote career advancement within nursing and recruit nurses into critical shortage areas. While testifying in support of increased funding for Title VIII, President Patton argued for a funding increase “to save thousands of lives, and millions of dollars in health care costs linked to avoidable complications associated with the nursing shortage.”

The legislation also includes a one time increase in permanent employment based visas, reserved for RNs and physical therapists. Employers who bring foreign educated nurses into the U.S. through this program will be required to pay a fee to fund a capitation program, which would in turn help fund domestic schools of nursing. The legislation will now head to conference in the House.

To learn more about Nursing Workforce Development Programs, or to get involved with ANA’s legislative efforts, log on here,

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAPoliticalPower.aspx>.

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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 54 constituent member nurses associations. 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."