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Statement from ANA President in support of H.R. 800

The American Nurses Association announces its endorsement for the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800). The Employee Free Choice Act would restore and protect workers' rights to form unions. Under the Employee Free Choice Act, if a majority of workers sign cards authorizing a union, then the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) can certify that union. Currently, the majority vote is only permitted if an employer allows it. The Employee Free Choice Act also stiffens penalties against employers that illegally fire or discriminate against workers attempting to form unions.

ANA has always been an advocate for worker's rights to unionize, and defends the rights of all workers to bargain for better wages, working conditions and benefits. ANA actively supports initiatives which serve to strengthen the economic and general welfare of nurses.

ANA recognizes our nation faces a serious nursing shortage. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) projects, if recent trends continue, the number of RNs leaving the workforce will outpace those entering the profession by 2016. While recruitment of new registered nurses is vital, retention of practicing RNs is integral. By reinforcing the right to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions, H.R. 800 could make a real difference in nurse retention.

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.

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