

American Nurses Association  
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492  
Tel (301) 628-5000  
Fax (301) 628-5001  
www.NursingWorld.org

**NEWS RELEASE**



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**CONTACT:**

**Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198,**  
[mary.mcnamara@ana.org](mailto:mary.mcnamara@ana.org)  
**Mary Stewart, 301-628-5038,**  
[mary.stewart@ana.org](mailto:mary.stewart@ana.org)  
[www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/](http://www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/)

**ANA CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET**  
*FY 2009 budget shows severe cuts in nursing programs*

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – In response to the president’s proposed budget, the American Nurses Association criticizes what it believes is the insufficient funding for Title VIII Nursing workforce development programs. For fiscal year 2009, President Bush recommends \$109,853 million in funding for Title VIII programs; this is a decrease of \$46,193 million, or 29.6 percent from FY2008 funding. Title VIII programs serve to fund education programs, recruit new nurses into the profession, promote career advancement within nursing and recruit nurses to critical shortage areas.

The president’s proposal completely eliminates funding for Advanced Education Nursing Programs, which are currently funded at \$61,875 million. These programs prepare nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators and public health nurses.

“Now is the time to invest in nursing. The current nursing shortage has reached a critical point where the quality of patient care is impacted,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN ,CNOR. “Increased funding for Title VIII programs is vital to save thousands of lives, and millions in health care costs linked to avoidable complications associated with the shortage. That is why ANA plans to request \$200 million in Title VIII funding when Congress begins its work on the budget.”

**MORE**

The decrease in Title VIII funding represents only a portion of nearly a billion dollars in total cuts to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). ANA is deeply concerned about additional drastic cuts that would severely impact or eliminate other HRSA programs, including Title VII Health Professions the Office of Rural Health, and Public Health Improvement.

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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.*