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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**ANA PRESIDENT MEETS WITH RNC ON HEALTH REFORM PRIORITIES**  
*Urges Nurses to make their voices heard*

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – American Nurses Association President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR, along with other ANA representatives, had an opportunity to share ideas on health care reform with the Republican Platform Committee at a meeting Thursday, July 10. The meeting was part of the Republican Platform Committee’s effort to gather input from across the country as they work to establish their platform. Their new web based initiative, launched July 11<sup>th</sup>, creates a forum where “voters from all walks of life can provide ideas, submit comments and actively participate in the development of the 2008 Republican Party Platform.” It is a significant opportunity for nurses to make their voices heard on their vital role in health system reform.

“Registered nurses (RNs) are the patient’s advocate and a part of almost every health care service delivered today. We have the education and the expertise to contribute significantly to the national debate regarding health system reform. ANA supports the ultimate goal of guaranteed access to high quality, affordable health care for all. That ultimate goal is not a partisan issue; it is fundamental need for everyone in the U.S. ANA will continue to work with policy-makers, industry leaders, providers, and consumers to build an affordable, high-quality health care system that meets the needs of everyone,” said President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

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Among ANA's recommendations:

- As the single largest group of health care professionals in the U.S., number approximately 2.9 million, registered nurses should be represented within the various policy tables at which future health reform decisions are discussed and decided.
- The recruitment, retention, and education of the healthcare workforce are essential to comprehensive health care reform as a cross cutting issue that significantly impacts access, cost and quality.
- Safe Staffing is not only an essential quality and patient safety measure, but also a necessary workplace condition to increase RN retention in the workforce.
- RNs, and the full spectrum of qualified health care professionals, should be recognized, included and reimbursed as providers of care within a reformed health care system.
- Any health reform plan should include an increased investment in community-based primary care, and an increased effort to eliminate health care disparities.
- ANA strongly cautions against relying entirely on the competitive market place to achieve fairness, quality and cost-savings in the health care delivery system. The "playing field" is not level between the average consumer and the large profit-driven insurance and drug companies.

ANA calls on nurses to make their voices heard and have a role in developing policy for the Republican Platform Committee. Please visit: [www.GOPPlatform2008.com](http://www.GOPPlatform2008.com).

For more information on ANA's Health System Reform Policy please visit:

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/HealthcareandPolicyIssues/HSR/ANAsHealthSystemReformAgenda.aspx>.

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*ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the nation's 2.9 million Registered Nurses through its 54 constituent member associations. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare 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.*