

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



***** MEDIA STATEMENT *****

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CONTACT: Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198,
mary.mcnamara@ana.org
Mary Stewart, 301-628-5038,
Mary.stewart@ana.org
www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/

ANA STATEMENT ON MINNESOTA NURSES ASSOCIATION

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) is disappointed to see the Minnesota Nurses Association’s plans to divide ANA and MNA. It is and has always been ANA’s goal to focus on the work of nurses and nursing, and not on relationship issues pitting member against member. ANA has a robust advocacy program on behalf of staff nurses across the country.

The ANA House of Delegates, including delegates from Minnesota, voted in 2005 to include in the ANA Bylaws a provision that requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of a Constituent Member Association (CMA), such as MNA, before it is empowered to sever its ties with ANA. The 2/3 membership vote is designed to protect members’ rights to participate in making the fundamental decision of whether to end a state association’s affiliation with the ANA. MNA failed to comply with the requirements of a membership vote.

The MNA has been affiliated with the American Nurses Association for over 100 years, and the vote of a small minority of the membership should not be imposed on the many. There are approximately 20,000 MNA members and yet, only several hundred delegates to the MNA House of Delegates had the opportunity to vote on terminating the affiliation with the ANA.

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ANA will continue to work on the issues that impact the RNs work daily such as creating a safer work environment, protecting RNs rights, advocating for critical change such as safe staffing, and promoting RNs interests in patients as paramount in the challenging health care world of today. ANA is the only professional organization to ensure the collective voice of all RNs has national power. Collectively, ANA and its constituent members represent over 200,000 members. The 21 specialty nursing organizations that currently connect to ANA as affiliates represent approximately 250,000 additional RNs. ANA's relevance to the nursing profession remains unquestionable.

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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.