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NEWS RELEASE



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

**Congress passes Mental Health Parity
*Legislation included in Bailout Package***

Silver Spring, MD, October 3, 2008 – The American Nurses Association (ANA) is pleased to announce the House and Senate have approved the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Legislation, known as the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health and Equity Act of 2008. This legislation would require health plans offering mental health coverage to provide the same benefits for mental illness as they do for other medical conditions. ANA has been a strong advocate for mental health parity legislation that makes a real difference in the lives of those facing mental illness.

The legislation was part of the 700 billion dollar financial market rescue package passed by the Senate by a vote of 74-25. The House voted 263-171 to pass the measure which the President has signed into law.

To keep up to date on ANA's legislative agenda please visit,
<http://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."