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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS ADVANCE CARE PLANNING  
THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA) is underscoring the importance of advance healthcare decision-making by providing online resources to its members and the public in support of National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) occurring on April 16, 2008. As one of several national, state and local participating organizations in NHDD, ANA is working to ensure that registered nurses and the patients they serve have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

“On behalf of the country’s 2.9 million registered nurses, ANA is proud to collaborate with more than 70 healthcare organizations to raise awareness of the critical need for all of us, both healthcare providers and patients, to think about what our healthcare choices would be if we were unable to speak for ourselves. ANA encourages all citizens and residents to talk to others about their future healthcare decisions and to make their choices known by completing an advance directive,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

Although several states have engaged in advance directives awareness events and numerous organizations have devoted substantial time and money to improving education about advance healthcare planning, only a small minority of Americans has executed an advance directive. For more information, please visit [www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org](http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org)

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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.*