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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2009

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ANA COMMENTS ON GOV. SEBELIUS' CONFIRMATION AS HHS SECRETARY

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) congratulates Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius on her confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department. Secretary Sebelius was confirmed by a 65-31 Senate vote.

“This is a critical time in the U.S. for health care. We face a potential public health emergency from the current swine flu outbreak. We also face growing concerns about the state of our health care system and the need for substantive healthcare reform,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “Kathleen Sebelius has proven herself as a strong leader, and a vocal advocate for health reform who recognizes nurses’ vital role in the delivery of quality care. ANA applauds her confirmation as HHS Secretary and looks forward to working with Secretary Sebelius, the administration and lawmakers to build a health care system that is safe, affordable and available to all.”

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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 51 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. 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.