



December 23, 2009

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million Registered Nurses through its 51 constituent member associations, I am writing to urge you to vote for H.R. 3590, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.

Nurses across this country have waited decades for this historic moment and the time is at hand. While political maneuvering delays reform, our patients' needs are not on hold. The uninsured and underinsured continue to delay or forgo much-needed care; they continue to arrive in the emergency rooms across the country for conditions that could have been easily prevented with access to primary care—we are paying a high price for inaction. Quality health care for all should not be a partisan or political issue.

While we realize that no piece of legislation is perfect, we also realize that doing nothing is not an option. We know that passage of H.R. 3590 represents our only hope for much-needed, comprehensive, and meaningful reform of our nation's healthcare system. America's nurses understand the cost of inaction—we cannot afford to wait—it must be done before the end of the year.

Once again, the need for fundamental reform of the U.S. health care system is critical. ANA and nurses around the country are ready to work with you toward enactment of the strongest possible health care reform legislation. We are almost there. Please vote YES on H.R. 3590, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose J. Gonzalez".

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN
Director, Government Affairs