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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA MEMBER MARY WAKEFIELD NAMED ADMINISTRATOR FOR HRSA

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) commends President Obama on appointing Dr. Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN as Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA.) Dr. Wakefield is widely acknowledged as an expert on rural health and nursing workforce issues, and has extensive knowledge of the health care system and policy making process. As HRSA Administrator, Dr. Wakefield will lead the agency in improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable.

“At a time when the country is in need of bold and innovative health system reform, ANA is confident that Dr. Wakefield will be an invaluable asset to the administration’s health care team,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “We at ANA are thrilled to see such a qualified and respected nurse selected for HRSA Administrator, especially given the Agency’s vital role in delivering much needed care to underserved areas.”

Dr. Wakefield, a longstanding ANA member, was most recently the Associate Dean for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, where she was a tenured professor and Director for the Center for Rural Health. She has distinguished herself as a dedicated nurse, educator and leader within the nursing profession, as well as the health care public policy arena. She has demonstrated that she can serve as a dynamic catalyst for change at the local, state, and national level.

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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.