AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492
301 628-5000 • Fax 301 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR
President

Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN
Chief Executive Officer

December 18, 2009

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-7020

Dear Senator Reid:

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 keep the democratic process moving in the Senate by voting to end debate on 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 patient's 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. We are almost there. Please vote YES to end the debate on H.R. 3590, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and move the process forward towards a final vote of passage.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR
President