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**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 21, 2009**

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### **ANA Advocates on Capitol Hill for House Health Reform Bill**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – A group of American Nurses Association (ANA) registered nurses demonstrated support for the House’s healthcare reform bill H.R. 3200 at the U.S. Capitol today, joining the House Democratic Caucus to describe personal stories of a broken system in which health care is too often denied or delayed.

The ANA contingent appeared with members of Congress to urge action on “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.” The bill would establish a public health insurance plan option to broaden access and choices for patients; address the nursing shortage through an increased commitment to workforce investment; and recognize nurse practitioners as primary care providers.

Linda M. Gural, RN, CCRN, a member of ANA’s Board of Directors, provided a glimpse of her experience as a critical care nurse at a hospital. While describing an uninsured patient’s health problem that was exacerbated because of a lack of care and follow-up treatment, Gural noted that such cases are typical occurrences in emergency rooms and hospitals across the country.

“This type of situation should not continue to occur in our emergency rooms and hospitals,” Gural told reporters. “This patient should not have had to suffer because of the lack of insurance or a primary care provider... Our nurses should no longer bear witness and share the needless suffering of the patients we serve due to the cost of inaction.”

**MORE . . .**

## **ANA Support House Health Reform Bill/ Page 2. . .**

H.R. 3200 moves toward ANA’s goal of creating a restructured system that ensures universal access to a standard package of essential and affordable healthcare services for individuals and families.

“All too often, registered nurses encounter patients who haven’t had timely access to healthcare services or couldn’t pay for treatment, and then suffer the consequences,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “It’s time for bold action. The House bill moves toward much-needed, comprehensive and meaningful reform.”

For more information on ANA’s positions on healthcare reform, see:  
[www.nursingworld.org/healthcarereform](http://www.nursingworld.org/healthcarereform).

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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 and its 24 specialty nursing and workforce advocacy affiliate organizations that currently connect to ANA as affiliates. 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.*