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Letter to the Editor
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The American Nurses Association (ANA) strongly disagrees with the American Medical Association's position that expanding healthcare access and coverage should come only through private market solutions ("Doctors' Group Opposes Public Insurance Plan," June 11). Representing the interests of the nation's largest healthcare workforce, ANA believes that a public health insurance plan option is an indispensable component of health reform legislation.

ANA supports guaranteed, affordable, high-quality health care for all. What people want most is the security of reasonably priced, quality health care even when they are undergoing personal crises. They want peace of mind. We don't have that in our current system, dominated by for-profit, private insurance companies that can deny care based on preexisting conditions and where individuals can lose coverage based on job status change. The choice of a public health insurance plan will create a level playing field, where for-profit private plans will have to compete out in the open, and where patients can see what they're getting – with no fine print surprises – so they can make the choice themselves.

Debbie Dawson Hatmaker PhD, RN-BC, SANE-A
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