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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA and National Nurses Week Recognized on Capitol Hill

SILVER SPRING, MD – In honor of National Nurses Week, today Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), one of the 3 nurses in Congress, brought House Resolution 192 to the floor. The resolution states that the House of Representatives recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system, and supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week and the American Nurses Association. H. Res. 192 encourages the public to observe National Nurses Week with ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

On bringing the resolution to the floor, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson spoke of nurses as “a key component of our nation’s health care system” and called on Congress’ support for Nursing Workforce Development Programs to address the current nursing shortage. She also encouraged hospitals to establish staffing plans that involve nurse input and link staffing to quality outcomes.

In the Senate, freshman Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) addressed his colleagues about National Nurses Week and the need to invest in Title VIII programs that recruit and retain nurses. Merkley added, “We have an obligation to create a health care system that not only works for patients but also works for the people at the heart of patient care: our nurses.”

To view Sen. Merkley’s remarks please visit

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAPoliticalPower/Federal/National-Nurses-Week.aspx>

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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.