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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA ON REDUCING HEALTHCARE COSTS

SILVER SPRING, MD – As the White House convenes meetings today on healthcare reform, The American Nurses Association (ANA) commends President Obama for starting a dialogue with stakeholders on the need to reduce healthcare costs. President Obama said at a recent town hall meeting that nurses are “on the front lines” in driving down health care costs. ANA looks forward to working with the Obama administration, lawmakers, and key stakeholders to help build a health care system that delivers safe, quality care to all.

Healthcare costs will be a major challenge to the federal government in coming years. Healthcare costs currently account for 16 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), and are expected to rise. The American Nurses Association has consistently argued for changes to the healthcare system that would reduce costs and improve the quality of care. Among these are prevention and screening, health education, cultural competency, chronic disease management, coordination of care and the provision of community-based primary care. These are precisely the professional services and skills that registered nurses bring to patient care.

ANA appreciates that the organizations at today's meeting have pledged to help reduce healthcare costs. Given the key role of registered nurses in providing cost-effective care, it is critical that budgets for registered nurse staffing not be cut. Too often, RN positions are eliminated when healthcare facilities seek ways of containing costs, and this approach has been and will continue to be counter-productive - both in terms of the bottom line and patient care.

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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.