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NEWS RELEASE



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HOUSE PASSES EXPANSION OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

SILVER SPRING, MD – As a long-time advocate for universal availability of health coverage and care for all children in the U.S., the American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds the U.S. House of Representatives' support for the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

On January 14, the House voted 289-139 to reauthorize and expand the program, which provides medical insurance to lower income children and is funded by a tax on cigarettes. The House bill would reauthorize SCHIP for four-and-a-half years and allow \$34.3 billion in new spending over five years, according to a Congressional Budget Office analysis. In addition, the expanded SCHIP would cover an additional 4 million children through the fiscal year 2013 at a cost of \$42.3 billion dollars.

On behalf of America's 2.9 million nurses, ANA stands ready to support this critical legislation as it advances next to the US Senate.

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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 54 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates serving 330,000 members of national nursing specialty organizations, 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.