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NEWS RELEASE



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INDEPENDENCE AT HOME MEASURE ADDED TO HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATION

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee for approving, by voice vote, the inclusion of an amendment to “H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act,” which aims to create a pilot program to provide patients with care options that offer both independence and quality of life. Specifically, the amendment would create an Independence at Home Pilot Program to allow Medicare patients with multiple chronic conditions to receive primary care in their homes. Additionally, the amendment aims to support an interdisciplinary model in which provider’s - both nurses and physicians - practice collaboratively and to the full extent of their education and licensure on behalf of the patient.

ANA supports this legislation because it provides patients with care options that maintain functional individual independence and prolong a better quality of life. It also recognizes the integral role nurses and nurse practitioners play in the delivery of primary care and helps bring the focus of our health care system back where it belongs - on the patient and the community.

ANA has been a strong supporter of the original bill, the Independence at Home Act of 2009 (H.R. 2560./S. 1131), and will continue to advocate for high-quality, affordable health care for all as both the House and Senate move forward with their deliberations.

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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.