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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT’S BUDGET PROPOSAL

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) strongly supports the President’s budget for fiscal year 2010, which clearly demonstrates his commitment to achieving meaningful health care reform. The \$330 million included in the budget to strengthen the health profession workforce and increase the capacity of the nation’s nursing schools, illustrated the Administration’s recognition that bolstering our nursing workforce is key to ensuring, quality, affordable access to health care for all Americans.

“This budget is, in President Obama’s own words, ‘a down payment’ towards the goal of providing every American with affordable, quality health care,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. ANA has been so pleased to be a part of White House conversations about the future of health care in this country, and today’s announcement only confirms the Presidents’ commitment to much-needed health care reform, and the vital role nurses will play.

In addition to workforce funding, the President’s budget includes \$1.5 billion in prevention and wellness programs, and \$73 million to improve both access to and the quality of health care in rural areas. The budget also provides more than \$6 billion for the National Institutes of Health for cancer research.

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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.