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**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **ANA COMMENDS PLANNED REPEAL OF PROVIDER CONSCIENCE REGULATION**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA) commends President Obama’s planned repeal of the “Provider Conscience” regulation issued in the last days of the Bush Administration. The rule allows healthcare workers and providers to withhold treatment, counseling, or healthcare information based on religious or moral beliefs without regard for the needs of the patient.

ANA has opposed the rule since it was initially proposed because of its potential impact on access to care. We believe that a healthcare provider is obligated to provide patients and families with all relevant information so that patients may make informed decisions about their care, and to support patients regardless of the decisions that they may make. ANA’s *Code of Ethics for Nurses* allows nurses to refuse to engage in practices which they find morally objectionable, but the nurse is also “obliged to provide for the patient’s safety, to avoid patient abandonment, and to withdraw only when assured that alternative sources of nursing care are available to the patient.”

Finally, the ANA notes that the “Provider Conscience” regulation is unnecessary because the right of healthcare providers to elect not to participate in certain procedures is protected by existing federal law and the estimated \$44.5 million spent yearly on implementing this new regulation would be better spent on provision of patient care services.

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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.*