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NEWS RELEASE



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SENATE PASSES LANDMARK HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest multi-purpose nursing organization in the country, applauds Senate lawmakers for passing H.R. 3590, “*The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.” This landmark legislation was approved by a vote of 60-39. ANA had urged passage of the legislation and its most recent letter of support, one of several sent to members of Congress, was read on the Senate floor by Majority Whip Dick J. Durbin (D-IL). ANA has been a tireless advocate for health care reform which creates a system that is responsive to the needs of consumers, provides access to safe, high-quality cost-effective care for all, and recognizes the vital role played by nurses.

“This is a victory for advocates of meaningful health care reform,” commented ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “We are poised to see the most significant piece of legislation passed in a generation; legislation that ensures millions of Americans receive coverage, strengthens the nation’s preventive and wellness care, and addresses critical shortages in the health care workforce. As the voice for the nation’s largest group of health care providers ANA will continue to play a part in the ongoing reform efforts to benefit the nursing profession and the patients we serve.”

To learn more about ANA’s health care advocacy work, please visit

<http://www.rnaction.org/healthcare>.

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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 constituent member nurses associations, its 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.