

American Nurses Association
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492
Tel (301) 628-5000
Fax (301) 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

NEWS RELEASE



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CONTACT:

Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198
mary.mcnamara@ana.org
Adam Sachs, 301-628-5034
Adam.sachs@ana.org
www.nursingworld.org

**ANA’S DELEGATES TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE,
WORK TOWARD GREATER HEALTH LITERACY**

Silver Spring – Nearly 600 elected registered nurse delegates to the American Nurses Association (ANA) convened June 16-19 at the biennial House of Delegates meeting in Washington, DC. Delegates passed several proposals designed to improve the nursing profession and advance the public’s health.

With the problems of workforce abuse and harassment in health care escalating, even to the point of the Joint Commission weighing in, ANA has resolved to work to reduce violence and work toward healthy professional environments for all nurses.

“Creating a safe working environment is essential for the delivery of quality care,” said newly elected ANA President Karen Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “Workforce abuse and violence take a significant toll, whether it’s the physical, emotional and mental effects, the lost productivity, or the impact on nurse recruitment and retention. ANA is dedicated to raising awareness of this problem, and working on solutions which include an emphasis on prevention and reporting.”

ANA’s House of Delegates also examined the issue of health care in America, addressing several issues that impact the public’s health: health care for undocumented immigrants and health literacy. Even with the historic passage of health reform legislation, an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently have no access to health care services. As undocumented immigrants delay or forgo necessary care, they pose a health risk to themselves and potentially the larger public. To address the issue, the

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ANA voted to reaffirm its long held position that health care is a basic human right, and as such the ANA will continue to advocate for the ability of documented and undocumented immigrants to gain access to health care. ANA further resolved to educate nurses about the wide-ranging social, economic and political ramifications of undocumented immigrants' lack of access to health care services.

Poor health literacy costs an estimated \$73 billion dollars annually according to the Institute of Medicine. ANA resolved to promote initiatives that address health literacy problems and support nursing research that identifies evidence-based practices regarding optimum health literacy.

Additionally, ANA delegates passed the following measures, many of which could have a significant impact on public health:

- ANA delegates voted to support legislation that reduces barriers to care by permitting advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to sign orders for home care services and supplies for Medicare patients as well as make changes to home health care plans.
- Delegates approved a resolution to support research on single-use devices and the environmental impact of using single-use devices. Further, ANA supports ongoing research efforts to better understand the ethical issues associated with utilizing single-use reprocessed devices and advance best practices that maintain the safety of patients.
- Delegates passed a resolution to support initiatives to facilitate the successful integration of new nurse graduates into the work environment and to partner with constituent member associations (CMAs) and other nursing organizations to develop and disseminate information about mentoring programs.

ANA's House of Delegates also passed a series of bylaws to strengthen the association as it continues its work on behalf of all nurses.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 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.