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NEWS RELEASE



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**FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA UNDERSCORES THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF
NURSES IN TELECONFERENCE ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM
PROVISIONS**

Silver Spring, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) was proud to be among the participants in a nurse-only health care reform conference call with First Lady Michelle Obama and Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, the administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). More than 5,000 nurses from across the country participated in the call which focused on how nurses can educate their patients about the new protections and benefits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Groups of nurses and nursing students held listening parties in sites around the country.

Michelle Obama began the discussion with a message of thanks for the “crucial role nurses play in the health care system” and the work of nurses across the country, remarking, “all the things you do, everyday” to improve the health of patients. Mrs. Obama urged nurses to educate their communities as well as their patients about the protections available under the Affordable Care Act.

Commenting on the tremendous participation in the call, ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, said, “Nurses know that these changes will help people access much needed health care services, and they are eager to help patients and communities take advantage of these new benefits.”

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Other topics covered in the call included the Medicare provisions in the ACA as well as the administration's efforts to combat the pending nursing shortage and nurse faculty shortage with new investments in nursing education. ANA member Jillian Roth, a labor and delivery nurse from Virginia, also spoke about the importance of primary and preventive care services.

To learn more about the newly enacted provisions of the Affordable Care Act, please visit [this page](#).

To find out how you can become more involved in the policy making process, please visit our [RN action site](#).

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*The **American Nurses Association** (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.*