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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA's Nurses' Efforts Pay off in Historic Health Care Bill Signing

SILVER SPRING, MD – Nearly two years after launching the most recent surge to bring about meaningful health care reform, The American Nurses Association (ANA) saw the efforts of many registered nurses come to fruition today, culminating in President Obama's signing of H.R. 4872, "The Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010."

"ANA strongly believes that this law is a significant victory for the patients we serve. They'll have greater protection against losing or being denied health insurance coverage, and they'll have better access to primary care and the wellness and prevention programs that will keep them healthier," said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. "However, we recognize that the debate over reform is not over. We are committed to helping nurses and the public understand how this change affects their lives, and will continue our work to build an affordable health care system that meets the needs of everyone."

Heading into the 2008 elections, ANA, the nation's largest nursing organization, published *Health System Reform Agenda*, an update of principles first disseminated in the early 1990s that defines health care as a basic human right and calls for guaranteed access to high-quality, affordable health care for everyone. Registered nurses nationwide have heeded the call since the election to try to make the promise of universal health coverage a reality by contacting members of Congress, testifying at hearings, sharing personal stories, participating in high-profile press conferences, attending rallies and events, and joining ANA's health care reform team.

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To address many misconceptions about the health care reform bills -- "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" H.R. 3590 and H.R. 4872, which provided additional reform improvements -- ANA plans to develop and disseminate resources summarizing both bills and their impact on the nursing profession and day-to-day health care.

ANA's Health Care Reform Toolkit is available at: www.rnaction.org/toolkit.

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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.