American Nurses Association

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





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 21, 2010

CONTACT:

Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198 mary.mcnamara@ana.org Adam Sachs, 301-628-5038 adam.sachs@ana.org www.nursingworld.org

HOUSE PASSES HISTORIC HEALTH REFORM BILL

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest nursing organization in the United States, applauds House lawmakers for passing the Senate health care reform bill, H.R. 3590, "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," by a vote of 219-212 (vote details available here) The passing of this historic legislation is an affirmation that Americans recognize the need for affordable, quality health care reform.

"This is an outstanding victory for the American people," commented ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. "This legislation will enact very real and much-needed insurance reforms, it will place a new focus on wellness and prevention, improving access to primary care and expanding coverage to over 30 million people."

H.R. 3590 now heads to the President's desk.

The House also passed H.R. 4872, "The Health Care & Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010," by a vote of 220-211 (vote details available here) This bill provides much needed improvements to the recently passed health care reform bill and makes changes to the current student loan program. H.R. 4872 must now be considered and approved by the Senate in order to complete this process and enact true meaningful reform. "We still have work to do to MORE...

House Passes Health Reform Legislation/page 2

ensure that the Senate finalizes these reforms," added Patton. "ANA will continue to be on the frontlines of this debate, advocating for our patients, and urging Senators to pass health reform quickly."

ANA encourages its members to stay informed on the latest developments as the Senate begins consideration through its dedicated Web page, http://www.rnaction.org/toolkit.

###

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.

B 21