

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2010

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

PRESIDENT OBAMA ADDRESSES ANA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Silver Spring, MD – The American Nurses Association was proud to welcome President Barack Obama as a guest speaker to its biennial House of Delegates. He spoke to an estimated crowd of more than 1,000 nurses and guests during the opening session.

“Nurses are the beating heart of our health care system,” the president commented. “It is because you know the system so well that you have become such fierce advocates for reform,” he noted as he thanked the nurses and the ANA for their staunch support during the health care debate. He remarked on ANA’s long commitment to health care reform, singling out Jo Eleanor Elliott of Colorado for her strong leadership; she was president of ANA when it became the first health care organization to support the creation of Medicare.

The president recognized the need for more nurses and cited his administration for making “the largest investment in nursing and health care workforce in history.” The president also revealed a series of investments in the health care workforce, just announced by the Department of Health and Human Services. This new funding will serve to encourage registered nurses to attend school full time to become nurse practitioners. Additionally, the funds establish nurse-managed health clinics to increase access to care and assist in the training of nurse practitioners as primary care providers.

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As he finished his remarks, the president reiterated the remarkable dedication of nurses and expressed his administration's goal to "elevate and value the work that you do," adding "our mission must be to live up to the values that you uphold every day."

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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.