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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA URGES SUPPORT FOR SAFER CHEMICALS ACT OF 2010

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest nursing organization in the United States, supports the “Safe Chemicals Act of 2010”. This legislation brings much needed changes to the 30 year old Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA), requiring publically available safety and health data on chemicals, and putting the burden on the industry to prove that chemicals are safe in order stay on the market.

ANA, along with its partners in the *Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families* coalition supports the goals of the bill. However, there is still work to be done to ensure effective TSCA reform, such as requiring new chemicals to be proven safe prior to introduction to the market; allowing the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to act immediately on extreme chemicals such as those that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic; and using the most current and best science available when determining chemical safety.

“We at ANA, along with our coalition partners, are committed to working with lawmakers to ensure the Safe Chemicals Act will reduce or eliminate these environmental threats,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “Nurses, as the largest group of health care providers, have a responsibility to educate themselves and their patients about the link between chemical exposures, a healthy environment, and the public health.”

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“The Safe Chemicals Act goes a long way toward bringing chemical policy into the 21st century,” said Andy Igrejas, Director of *Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families*, on a press teleconference held Thursday. “We look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the bill to keep dangerous chemicals out of the marketplace.”

To learn more about ANA’s work on this issue, please visit

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/OccupationalandEnvironmental/environmentalhealth.aspx>

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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.