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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**ANA CALLS ON LAWMAKERS TO END PAINFUL CUTS**  
*Sequester will lead to significant job losses, decrease in quality of patient care*

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA) today issued the following statement attributable to ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, RN, FAAN:

“The American Nurses Association (ANA) is extremely disappointed that the nation’s elected leaders have failed to find common ground to avert the so-called “sequester.” Consequently, painful cuts in health care spending will hurt vulnerable Americans seeking care and lead to widespread job losses.

Reducing the nation’s deficit on the backs of seniors who need care and professionals who dedicate their lives to providing health care services and conducting research is reckless and should be unacceptable to anyone. Although the sequester was meant to spur action to address fiscal issues in a thoughtful way, we are now facing a situation where cuts in Medicare funding will result in the elimination of hundreds of thousands of health care jobs. Allowing these cuts to go forward is the equivalent of malpractice. The nation’s lawmakers have chosen inaction with a full understanding of the painful consequences for their constituents.

We call upon our nation’s elected leaders to do the right thing and formulate a balanced solution that strengthens the nation’s health care system and the economy instead of weakening it.”

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*In September 2012, ANA, along with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the American Medical Association (AMA), warned that the 2 percent sequester of Medicare spending is projected to cause a loss of 766,000 nursing and other health care jobs and a corresponding decline in quality of care for patients.*

*ANA represents the interests of the nation’s 3.1 million registered nurses.*