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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2012

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STATEMENT

ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

On President Obama's State of the Union Address

“ANA is pleased that President Obama addressed the need to develop and educate a vibrant American workforce in his State of the Union address. Even during the depths of the recession, the health care sector has experienced steady job growth. However, sustained federal funding for nursing education programs is essential to meet the growing demands of an aging population and increased access to care under the Affordable Care Act. We must continue to invest in health care to reap the benefits of a transformed health care system, one that increases Americans’ access to primary care and prevention services and that ultimately results in a healthier nation.

“We also must preserve Medicare and Medicaid funding, not only to protect the most vulnerable Americans, but to avoid major job losses that will have a negative ripple effect in communities across this country. The vision of a reformed health care system won’t be achieved unless we address the growing shortage of nurses and the looming threats of staff cuts due to deep cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.”

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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 and state nurses associations and its organizational affiliates. 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.