

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
April 8, 2009

CONTACT:

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

American Nurses Association Argues *The Costs of Inaction* On Health System Reform Are Too High This Year

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) believes that meaningful health system reform must be accomplished this year to increase access to care, improve health care quality and make coverage and services more affordable for all people in the United States.

ANA's stance on health system reform supports the conclusion in a new report issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The Costs of Inaction*.

ANA has long advocated that health care is a basic human right and that all people in the U.S. are entitled to ready access to a standard package of essential and affordable healthcare services. As the organization representing the largest sector of the healthcare workforce, ANA also believes that the current nursing shortage must be addressed to create a more effective and affordable health care system.

“The data cited in this report confirms what we know is true: Our current health system is too fragmented and costly and does not work effectively for too many people. Patchwork approaches are not the answer because we are in a state of crisis,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “Nurses have seen the negative effects of a system that excludes too many up close, and we stand ready to make comprehensive health reform work for our patients this year.”

MORE . . .

The Costs of Inaction, released online at <http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/inaction/>, highlighted data from numerous healthcare studies showing how rising healthcare costs, decreasing access and uneven quality make the current system untenable beyond 2009.

###

The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 51 constituent member nurses associations and its 24 specialty nursing and workforce advocacy affiliate organizations that currently connect to ANA as 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.