

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



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

ANA Commends Creation of White House Office of Health Reform

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds President Obama’s executive order to establish a White House Office of Health Reform as a positive step toward achieving one of ANA’s top priorities: guaranteeing ready access to affordable, high-quality health care services for all people in the United States.

“ANA looks forward to working with the Obama Administration and the White House Office of Health Reform to help make universal access to essential health care services a reality,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “As a grassroots organization, ANA appreciates that the Office of Health Reform is charged with working with state, local and community policymakers. That should give nurses on the frontlines more opportunities to make their concerns, experiences and knowledge heard.”

ANA has long advocated that health care is a basic human right and contends that the current fragmented and costly U.S. health care system is in a state of crisis that patchwork approaches will be inadequate to fix. ANA emphasizes that ensuring an adequate nursing workforce is an essential component of meaningful health care reform to truly provide access to care for all.

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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.