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PRESIDENT

MARLA J. WESTON, PhD, RN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

March 24, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million Registered Nurses, I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 4872, the *Health Care & Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010*, without amendment. We are almost at the finish line in enacting true, meaningful health care reform.

Nurses across this country have waited decades for this historic moment and the time is at hand. While political maneuvering has delayed reform, our patient's needs have not been on hold. The uninsured and underinsured continue to delay or forgo much-needed care; they continue to arrive in the emergency rooms across the country for conditions that could have been easily prevented with access to primary care—we are all paying a high price for inaction. Quality health care for all should not be a partisan or political issue.

We know that passage of H.R. 4872, the *Health Care & Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010*, without amendment, will make important improvements to the health care reform package. America's nurses understand the cost of inaction—we cannot afford to wait.

Once again, the need for fundamental reform of the U.S. health care system is critical. ANA and nurses around the country are ready to work with you. We are almost there. Please vote YES on H.R. 4872, the *Health Care & Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010*, without amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose J. Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN
Director, Government Affairs