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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2010

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AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION APPEAL: NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BACK DOWN ON HEALTH REFORM

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest nursing organization in the US, urges President Obama and congressional lawmakers to continue their critical work toward meaningful health reform.

“I applaud the president’s call to Congress in the State of the Union address not to ‘walk away’ from reform,” commented ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “While Congress continues to debate among themselves about how to proceed, every day people are dying needlessly because they lack health care. Those of us still advocating for reform have no debate, we continue to support reform now. Simply put, there is no time to go backwards. As nurses, it’s our job to advocate for the patients we serve. Our patients need lawmakers to do their jobs and pass meaningful health reform now so that everyone may have access to the same health care that legislators themselves enjoy.”

ANA, a fierce and longstanding advocate for health care reform, also urges lawmakers to make increased funding for Title VIII nursing workforce development programs a priority, to ensure our health care system has enough nurses to care for patients now and in the future. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) projects that, absent aggressive intervention, in the year 2020 the nursing shortage will grow to more than 1 million RNs – representing a shortage of 36 percent. Title VIII programs provide much needed funding for scholarship and loan repayment

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awards, fund nurses serving in critical shortage facilities, and ensure nursing schools have the capacity to educate and train the next generation of nurses. These programs are vital to increasing the number of nursing faculty, educating the next generation of nurses, as well as providing specialized education for growing areas of nursing need, such as geriatrics.

To learn more about ANA's advocacy work at the federal level please visit

http://www.rnaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=nstat_HCRT_Resources

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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 constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. 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.