

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:

Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198

mary.mcnamara@ana.org

www.nursingworld.org

Adam Sachs, 301-628-5034

Adam.sachs@ana.org

www.nursingworld.org

**THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION: AT THE TABLE IN WHITE HOUSE
REGIONAL FORUM ON HEALTH REFORM**

Silver Spring, MD - On April 6, 2009, the American Nurses Association (ANA) continued its work toward achieving meaningful healthcare reform by participating in the White House Regional Forum on Health Reform, occurring in Los Angeles, California. ANA member Elissa Brown, MSN, APRN BC, CNS was among the invited guests sharing the nursing profession's unique perspective on health system reform. Over 650 people attended the forum, the fifth and final in a series of invitation only events that allowed a diverse cross section of people to discuss their concerns and ideas on reforming the healthcare system.

The final forum was moderated by Dr. Bob Ross, president of the California Endowment; speakers included Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire, and Melody Barnes, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. The event featured several special guests including Marian Wright Edelman, Dr. Dean Ornish and Dr. Mehmet Oz . Several other town halls throughout the state of California (Oakland, San Diego, and Clovis) took part in the discussion via satellite.

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Monday's discussion covered a variety of topics, including the rising costs of health care, the financial burden health care costs place on small business owners, and the need for preventive care as a means of reducing health care costs.

ANA encourages nurses to visit <http://www.healthreform.gov/> to submit ideas on health reform. ANA is proud to represent the nursing profession in advocating for high-quality, affordable health 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.