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NEWS RELEASE



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PRESIDENT SIGNS CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM LEGISLATION

SILVER SPRING, MD – As a long-time advocate for universal availability of health coverage, the American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds President Obama for signing legislation to increase funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP). This legislation will expand current SCHIP coverage to include 4 million additional children. It reauthorizes SCHIP for four-and-a-half years and allows \$32.8 billion in new spending over five years. ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR, was among the invited guests on hand at the White House on Wednesday as the president signed the legislation.

“ANA commends President Obama for the swift action on behalf of the nation’s uninsured children. ANA has a history of advocacy on behalf of the nation’s uninsured, and under insured, and we are pleased to witness this legislation become law. The S-CHIP program serves a vital need, providing health care to one of the most vulnerable populations in our society,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

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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 53 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates serving 330,000 members of national nursing specialty organizations, 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.