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NEWS RELEASE



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

Silver Spring, MD - On March 23, 2009, the American Nurses Association (ANA) advanced its work toward achieving meaningful healthcare reform by taking part in the White House Regional Forum on Health Reform, occurring in Des Moines, Iowa. At the event, Ginny Wangerin, RN, Iowa Nurses Association president and a nurse educator at Des Moines Community College, represented nursing's critical perspective on creating a healthcare system that is responsive to the needs of consumers and provides equal access to safe, high-quality care for every citizen and resident in a cost-effective manner. This series of invitation only forums allow a diverse cross section of people to discuss their concerns and ideas on reforming the healthcare system.

The forum began with remarks from Thomas Newton, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Works and a video message from President Obama. The forum was moderated by Governor Chet Culver of Iowa and Governor Mike Rounds of South Dakota, with Nancy-Ann DeParle, director of the White House Office on Health Reform, representing the White House. Topics discussed included wellness and prevention, the uninsured population, electronic medical records, and the cost of treating chronic diseases. Governor Rounds spoke about the need for health care providers to provide services in rural areas and asked for solutions on how to attract more providers to underserved communities.

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DeParle, mentioned the White House Health care summit and noted that the regional summits should be a continuation of that discussion. In closing remarks, both Nancy-Ann DeParle, and Governor Culver encouraged participants to visit www.healthreform.gov, where anyone may submit questions for future forums, or their 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.