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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 31, 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 Greensboro, North Carolina. At the event, North Carolina Nurses Association President Eileen Kohlenberg, PhD, RN, BC, CAN, and NCNA Executive Director Tina Gordon, MPA, CAE participated, representing nursing's critical perspective on health system reform. Over 650 people attended the forum, the fourth in a series of invitation only events that allow a diverse cross section of people to discuss their concerns and ideas on reforming the healthcare system.

The forum began with videotaped remarks from President Obama. The forum was moderated by North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue, along with Nancy-Ann DeParle, director of the White House Office on Health Reform. Topics discussed included the rising cost of health care and the fragmentation of the health care system. NCNA president Eileen Kohlenberg added comments on-line about nurses' role in delivering primary care. Governor Perdue wrapped up the discussion with her support for the president's plan to enact healthcare reform this year.

The next regional forum is scheduled for Monday, April 6. ANA encourages nurses to visit [www.healthreform.gov](http://www.healthreform.gov) to 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.*