

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](mailto:mary.mcnamara@ana.org)

**Adam Sachs, 301-628-5038**

[adam.sachs@ana.org](mailto:adam.sachs@ana.org)

[www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/](http://www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/)

## **ANA GOES TO CAPITOL HILL FOR NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2009**

**Silver Spring, MD** – In honor of National Nurses Week, the American Nurses Association (ANA), in conjunction with the Congressional Nursing Caucus, is sponsoring a Capitol Hill briefing to highlight the registered nurse's critical role in implementing healthcare reform. Congressional Health staff and interested stakeholders are invited to learn about the role registered nurses play as patient advocates, care givers, and pivotal contributors to the delivery of high quality health care.

ANA has assembled a diverse panel of nurses to discuss the myriad of responsibilities inherent in a nursing career. The panelists include Amy Garcia, RN, MSN, Executive Director of the National Association of School Nurses; Linda M. Gural, RN, CCRN, a nurse at an intensive care unit at a community medical center; Susan E. King, MS, RN, CEN, an ER nurse and the Executive Director of the Oregon Nurses Association and Linda Groah, RN, MSN, CNOR, CNAA, FAAN, the Executive Director of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. They will be joined by ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

“In keeping with this year's National Nurses Week theme, *Nurses: Building a Healthy America*, we're here on Capitol Hill to recognize that whether it's in the operating room, the classroom or at the patient's bedside, nurses have a powerful impact on the lives of the patients we serve, their families and society,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

**MORE...**

Traditionally, National Nurses Week focuses on giving thanks, recognition and acknowledgement for all nurses do for patients. Today's nurses must have the strength to care for patients during times of disaster and crisis, and the compassion to provide hands-on patient care at the bedside – as they have done throughout the centuries. Moreover, at 2.9 million strong, nurses represent the largest group of health care workers in America, and have the power to achieve much-needed reform in health care and in nursing.

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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.*

