

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 8, 2007

CONTACT:

Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198
mary.mcnamara@ana.org
Mary Stewart, 301-628-5038
mary.stewart@ana.org
www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/

**ANA PAC MEETS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AS PART OF ITS ENDORSEMENT
PROCESS**

Governor Bill Richardson Discusses Nursing Issues with ANA

SILVER SPRING, MD – As part of the American Nurses Association’s 2008 presidential endorsement process, representatives from ANA’s Political Action Committee (ANA-PAC) and Presidential Endorsement Task Force met with Gov. Bill Richardson today to discuss his views on nursing and health care. ANA has reached out to all presidential candidates to address the serious challenges facing our nation’s health care system, and more directly the nursing profession. A face-to-face meeting with ANA’s Presidential Endorsement Task Force is a necessary component of the endorsement process.

ANA-PAC’s goal is to engage presidential contenders of all parties in endorsement considerations. Through its endorsement, ANA seeks to recommend to its members and registered nurses nationwide the candidate who will best advance the interests of the nursing profession while serving in the White House.

“Nurses are an integral part of our health care system,” remarked Richardson. “Nurses would be important in my administration.” When asked about the most challenging issue facing nursing, Richardson said “the nursing shortage and nurse staffing.” He further stated “mandatory overtime is a public health issue.”

“The Task Force appreciates Governor Richardson’s interest in securing ANA’s endorsement” said Task Force Chair Sara Jarrett EdD, RN. “We had a productive discussion and we look

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forward to further engaging with his campaign and those of the other candidates as we continue the endorsement process.”

ANA has endorsed a candidate in each presidential election since 1984, engaging presidential contenders of all parties in the endorsement process. Presidential endorsements provide an opportunity to educate our members about the political process and to encourage political participation among all nurses while demonstrating ANA’s political power and ability to accomplish its legislative and regulatory goals. If you would like to learn more about ANA’s involvement in Election 2008, click here, <http://www.nursingworld.org/Election2008.aspx>

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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 54 constituent member nurses associations. 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.