

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**  
**December 19, 2007**

**CONTACT:**

**Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198**  
[mary.mcnamara@ana.org](mailto:mary.mcnamara@ana.org)  
**Mary Stewart, 301-628-5038**  
[mary.stewart@ana.org](mailto:mary.stewart@ana.org)  
[www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/](http://www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews/)

### **LAWMAKERS PASS FUNDING FOR S-CHIP, NURSING PROGRAMS**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – After months of contentious negotiations, Wednesday Congress passed legislation averting Medicare cuts to advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and extending the state children's health insurance program (SCHIP). The passage of these last remaining bills funds the federal government through the remainder of fiscal year 2008 (which began on October 1, 2007). Congress has left Washington for the holidays. President Bush is expected to sign these bills shortly.

The consolidated funding bill (H.R. 2764) includes \$156.05 million for the Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, an increase of \$6.4 million (4.3 percent) over last year's funding levels. During negotiations, the President proposed to cut funding by \$44 million.

Congress also sent to the President separate legislation (S. 2499) that would delay, for six months, a scheduled 10 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement for APRN and Physician services. Instead, this cut will be replaced by a 0.5 percent increase. Congress will have to revisit this issue again before June 30, 2008, to keep these cuts from reappearing. This bill would also extend SCHIP funding through March 31, 2009, providing enough funds for states to continue to serve their current SCHIP enrollment of about 6 million people.

For a more comprehensive summary of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress' first session, please read the upcoming January edition of *Capitol Update*, <http://www.capitolupdate.org/newsletter/>

###

*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.*