

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
May 6, 2008

CONTACT:

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

**THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATIONS CELEBRATES NATIONAL NURSES
WEEK WITH CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON SAFE STAFFING**

SILVER SPRING, MD - In honor of National Nurses Week (May 6-12), The American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Congressional Nursing Caucus will sponsor a luncheon briefing Thursday, May 8th at 12:00 p.m. at the Rayburn House Office Building Room B-340 for congressional health staff to highlight the importance of safe RN staffing and the solutions being developed and implemented in the states.

Appropriate staffing is a top concern among nurses and the public they serve and is critical to the delivery of safe patient care. Proper staffing levels allow nurses the time they need to make patient assessments, complete nursing tasks, respond to health care emergencies and provide the level of care that their patients deserve. Proper staffing levels also increase nurse satisfaction and reduce staff turnover, an important priority given today's nursing shortage and the projected shortfalls in the future. ANA is a strong advocate for the Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act (S. 73/H.R. 4138) which would hold hospitals accountable for the development of valid, reliable unit by unit nurse staffing plans. These plans would be developed in coordination with direct care registered nurses (RNs) and based on each unit's unique characteristics and needs.

"The data shows that safe staffing saves lives. There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates adequate nurse staffing improves the health outcomes of patients, resulting in

MORE

fewer inpatient days, complications and deaths. For over two decades, ANA has advocated for safe staffing at the national and state levels. This issue is at the core of ANA’s efforts to promote patient safety and quality health care,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

Traditionally, National Nurses Week focuses on giving thanks, recognition and acknowledgement for all nurses do, and remind the public just how vital our nation’s nurses are to patients, their families and society. 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 we have the power to achieve much-needed reform in nursing and in health care. That is why it is important to take time out during National Nurses Week to thank nurses for what they do and to remind the public just how vital our nation’s nurses are to patients, their families and society.

To support safe staffing, ANA has launched a national campaign to help fight for safe staffing legislation. To find out more about what you can do to advance safe staffing, please visit www.safestaffingsaveslives.org. This Web site serves as a one-stop source of helpful information with user-friendly tools. On the site, you will be able to find ANA’s “Principles on Safe Staffing”, background research on safe staffing, federal and state legislation and ANA’s legislative and legal action.

For more information on National Nurses Week, go to <http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/NationalNursesWeek.aspx>

###

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.