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NEWS RELEASE



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**AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF A UN
WOMEN'S AGENCY**

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) urges its RN members, and all health care professionals to lobby their United Nations representatives, heads of state and legislators about the critical need for a fully funded UN Women's organization to address gender equality concerns globally. UN Member states are poised to adopt a resolution at the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly this September to establish a new agency.

“The fundamental principal of all nursing practice is a respect for the inherent worth, dignity, and human rights of every individual. The creation of this agency could have potential, over time, of improving the physical and psychological well-being of over half the world's population. That is why ANA has been and will continue to be a vocal advocate on behalf of a UN agency focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

ANA has been a leader in campaigning for a dedicated women's agency based on the belief that the current structures within the UN are insufficient in scope, coordination and resources to make the significant progress in those global problems that we, as nurses, recognize as having detrimental effects on women and girls. These problems include poverty, gender-based violence, poor access to health care and inadequate education.

MORE...

You have the opportunity to have a significant impact on an issue of international importance, with repercussions for generations to come. As vocal advocates for the rights and health of women and girls, you can ensure their voices are heard. Please take a few moments to express your support for this agency. A sample letter can be found here,

<http://www.nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/NewsAnnouncements/UNWomensAgencyletter.aspx>.

More information including background information, as well as additional model letters are available at <http://www.icn.ch/waa.htm>.

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ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the nation's 2.9 million Registered Nurses through its 54 constituent member associations. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare 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.