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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA Applauds the Passage of Landmark Tobacco Legislation

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds Congress for passing legislation that would allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which now heads to the White House for President Obama’s signature, gives new oversight authority to the FDA in regulating how the tobacco industry manufactures and markets its products.

“This is a victory for the public’s health,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “As nurses, we see the immeasurable damage done by tobacco products, in suffering, poor health, medical costs, and the loss of human life. This legislation is a significant step toward reducing tobacco use and saving lives.”

ANA and the American Nurses Foundation are proud to partner with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the Tobacco Free Nurses Initiative. As the largest group of health care professionals, nurses have tremendous potential to effectively implement smoking cessation programs and to advance tobacco-use reduction goals, such as those proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services initiative, Healthy People 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.healthypeople.gov/>

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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.