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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA Calls Iowa Decision a Setback for Patients

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) called a decision by an Iowa County District Court judge that invalidated state regulations providing educational requirements for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) to order and supervise fluoroscopy a setback for patients. In the decision, the court stated that “this case is not about restricting access to medical services or about the competency of any particular health practitioner to perform procedures.” However, the court went on to state that Iowa law “does not provide [the Iowa Board of Nursing] with unfettered discretion to allow ARNPs to engage in the practice of medicine and it specifically prohibits the expansion of nursing practice into areas of medicine absent recognition of the medical professions.” Ultimately, the court concluded that the regulations were unlawful because “the desired expansion of nursing practice sought by [the Iowa Board of Nursing and Iowa Department of Public Health] has not been recognized by either the medical or nursing professions or in standards of radiation health and safety. The Iowa Nurses Association is considering an appeal.

Fluoroscopy provides continuous real time x-ray images that are especially useful for guiding a variety of diagnostic and interventional procedures. The court’s decision to invalidate the regulations could have a serious impact on access to care. The decision is especially significant in Iowa, where ARNPs are often the only access to care available to those living in rural areas. The case was brought by the Iowa Society of Anesthesiologists and the Iowa Medical Society, which argued that the regulation authorizing ARNPs to order and supervises fluoroscopy was not previously permitted under Iowa law.

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ANA is determined to continue working with the Iowa Nurses Association and all of its constituent and state nurses associations to ensure that all people have access to high quality care, including that which is administered by ARNPs.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses associations and its organizational 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.