



***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

NURSING, HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDED IN FEDERAL STIMULUS

Silver Spring, MD. The American Nurses Association (ANA) commends lawmakers for their work on the much needed stimulus legislation and for recognizing the vital need to include funds to strengthen the health care workforce. In all, the final plan contains \$11.46 billion for strengthening the health care workforce, including \$500 million in health work force investments such as Title VIII nurse training programs. The legislation passed the House and Senate and President Obama is expected to sign the legislation over the weekend.

“ANA is gratified to see lawmakers acknowledge the importance of a strong, well trained health care workforce. This funding will serve to bring new nurses into the health care field, at a time when the nursing shortage has reached a critical point impacting the quality of patient care. ANA strongly believes that this funding will save thousands of lives and millions of dollars in health care costs linked to avoidable, nurse shortage-related complications,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

The stimulus package also contains resources that will stimulate growth in other vital areas such as Health IT, the CDC and NIH. Additional funding will be provided for wellness and prevention programs, community health centers, and the National Health Service Corps which provides primary care services to the nation’s underserved communities.

ANA would like to thank the thousands of nurses who called, e-mailed and wrote their U.S. representatives in support of health care funding. “Your voices made a difference and resulted in the inclusion of these essential funds that will have an immeasurable impact on nurses and the public we serve,” added President Patton. ANA will continue working with lawmakers and the new administration to ensure safe, affordable health care for all.

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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 53 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates serving 330,000 members of national nursing specialty organizations, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. 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.