



The American Nurses Association is the only full-service professional organization representing the nation's entire registered nurse population. From the halls of Congress and federal agencies to hospitals and other health care facilities, ANA, headquartered in Silver Spring, MD, is the strongest voice for the nursing profession.

ANA represents the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member associations (CMAs). Dedicated to ensuring that an adequate supply of highly skilled and well-educated nurses is available, ANA is committed to meeting the needs of nurses, as well as health care consumers.

ANA's core issues are:

- ★ Nursing shortage
- ★ Appropriate staffing
- ★ Workplace rights
- ★ Workplace health and safety
- ★ Patient/safety advocacy

ANA's cornerstone work involves nursing ethics and nursing standards.

ANA is at the forefront of policy initiatives pertaining to health care reform. Through ANA's political and legislative program, the association has taken firm positions on a range of issues, including:

- ★ Mandatory overtime
- ★ Safe/appropriate nurse staffing
- ★ Medicare reform
- ★ Patients' rights and safety
- ★ The importance of safer needle devices
- ★ Whistleblower protections for health care workers
- ★ Adequate reimbursement for health care services, and
- ★ Access to health care
- ★ Protecting the nursing scope of practice
- ★ Healthcare reform
- ★ Safe patient handling

ANA and its Constituent Member Associations' (CMAs) lobbying efforts are contributing to health care reform on both state and national levels.

ANA continues its efforts to expand:

- ★ Scientific and research base for nursing practice
- ★ Ensure workplace advocacy rights of all nurses
- ★ Gain better compensation and better working conditions for nurses
- ★ Implement new ways in which nursing services can be delivered to respond to current and future demands for cost-effective, quality health care

The ANA enterprise includes the American Academy of Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the American Nurses Foundation — and, as of the end of 2008, 24 organizational affiliates.

