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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA Launches New Web Site to Broaden Support for Safe Patient Handling Goals

Silver Spring, MD -- As part of its long-standing effort to increase awareness about the need to eliminate manual patient handling by registered nurses working in health care facilities, the American Nurses Association (ANA) launched a new Web site today to promote grassroots support.

The Web site, www.ANASafePatientHandling.org, encourages registered nurses to write their members of Congress in support of House Resolution 510, sponsored by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY). The resolution would put Congress on record as encouraging safe patient handling as a critical component in protecting nurses and patients, and acknowledging that manual patient lifting is associated with high rates of injuries for health care workers.

In addition to House Resolution 510, ANA strongly supports “The Nurse and Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2009” (H.R. 2381), sponsored by Rep. John Conyers, (D-Mich.).

ANA’s Web site also encourages registered nurses to join ANA’s grassroots Safe Patient Handling Team and share their personal stories about why safe patient handling is important to them, a key strategy for broadening support in Congress. The site features background information and resources on safe patient handling, solutions to creating effective injury prevention programs, and information on current state and federal legislation.

ANA has long advocated the use of assistive lifting equipment and devices to reduce incidences of musculoskeletal injuries and back pain from lifting, moving and repositioning patients, which are often career-ending for nurses and increase work-related health care costs. The nation – now facing a serious nursing shortage – can no longer afford to lose the nurses who leave the profession annually due to musculoskeletal injuries and pain.

MORE...

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ANA launched its ANA Handle with Care® campaign in 2003 to establish a national no-manual-handling policy. ANA announced the Handle with Care Recognition Program™ in 2009 to award health care facilities that have comprehensive safe patient handling programs.

Visit www.ANASafePatientHandling.org for more information.

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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.

