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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2010

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ANA URGES SUPPORT FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS SAFETY ACT

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds the introduction of legislation to bring much needed reform to our nation’s chemical policy. “The Toxic Chemicals Safety Act of 2010” (H.R. 5820), introduced by Congressmen Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Henry Waxman (D-CA), would make much needed changes to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), such as requiring publicly available safety and health data on chemicals, and putting the burden on the industry to prove that chemicals are safe in order stay on the market. In April, a similar bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) called the “Safe Chemicals Act of 2010.”

“ANA urges lawmakers to pass HR 5820,” said ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “As the largest group of health care providers, nurses recognize this legislation as a means of creating a healthier environment and a healthier population. Current regulations fail to adequately protect the public from the serious health risks linked to chemical exposure.”

In the 34 years since TSCA took effect, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been able to require testing on just 200 of the more than 80,000 new chemicals produced and used in the U.S., and just five chemicals have been regulated under this law. Studies continue to demonstrate the links between chemicals in everyday products and serious illnesses. In addition to broad public health concerns, ANA has been a vocal advocate for chemical reform because nurses and other health care workers are exposed to many chemicals in the workplace, putting them at an even higher risk. In

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partnership with Physicians for Social Responsibility, ANA joined in a first of its kind bio-monitoring study of physicians and nurses in October, 2009. The inquiry found that all of the 20 participants had toxic chemicals in their systems which are associated with health care delivery. To learn more about ANA's work on this issue, please visit <http://www.rnaction.org/chemicals>

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