

September 15, 2009

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN  
Director of Governmental Affairs – ANA  
8515 Georgia Ave. Suite 400  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-3492

Dear Ms. Rose Gonzalez,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) and our current position relative to the proposed health care reform bill, H.R. 3200. LSNA is in agreement there are problems within our present health care system which must be addressed. Specifically we agree that a system that focuses on wellness, prevention and chronic disease management is needed and that affordable quality health care which is evidence-based and accessible for all must be an essential element of the reform package. It is our belief that in order to implement a system that does this, actions must be included to address the shortage of our primary care workforce, specifically primary care physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). In addition, any proposed health care reform legislation must clearly identify the basic health care benefits which will be provided. We do not feel that H.R. 3200 adequately addresses the workforce issues or identifies the specific basic health benefits which will be offered. Moreover, there are many unanswered questions related to H.R. 3200.

We were fortunate this past week to meet with Senator Mary Landrieu and members of her staff, and were given the opportunity to share our concerns about H.R. 3200. We understand H.R. 3200 is not the only potential plan addressing health care reform available and that other plans have been developed/or are in development to address health care reform. Senator Landrieu specifically cited Senate Bill 391, “The Healthy Americans Act.”

We would like to thank you for the strides ANA continues to make with ensuring nurses are actively engaged in the discussions around healthcare. LSNA fully agrees that nurses are integral providers in the delivery of health care and, therefore, must be an active part of any meaningful reform. This belief is the basis for our continued dialogue about congressional proposals regarding health care reform. We have attached a number of questions from our membership, and would appreciate a response from ANA, thereby expanding our understanding of issues arising from these proposals.

Sincerely,

Denise Danna, DNS, RN  
President

Lisa M. Deaton, BSN, RN  
Health Policy Chairman