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LINDA J. STIERLE, MSN, RN, CNAA.BC
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 4, 2008

Dear Distinguished Members of the Professional Licensure Committee of Pennsylvania,

The American Nurses Association (ANA), representing the interests of 2.9 million registered nurses, including those members of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, requests your support for PA House Bills 2715 and 2716, both of which amend the Professional Nurse Law to protect the title "nurse". The intent of this legislation is to protect the public from individuals who are not nurses, yet deceitfully lead the public to believe they are nurses and able to provide certain services that only nurses are qualified to provide. The legislative approach amending the state's Professional Nurse Law would prohibit someone from using the title "nurse" who is not licensed to practice nursing. Nurse practice acts (as with PA's Professional Nurse Law) describe entry requirements, practice standards and codes of conduct with the intent of protecting the public against unethical, unscrupulous and incompetent practitioners. The regulation of nurses offers some assurance to the public that a nurse is competent to provide services in an effective and safe way.

ANA as with several states believes, restricting use of the title "nurse" to those who have satisfied the licensure requirements ensures protection the public deserves. At least twenty two states are known to have statutory protections for the title nurse at this time and include: AZ, CA, CO, FL, HI, ID, KY, MD, MN, MO, NE, NV, NM, NY, NC, ND, RI, SC, TN, TX, WA, WI. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this most critical legislative protection for the residents of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Schumann MSN, MBA, RN, CPNP
Chief Programs Officer