



# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

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The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) strongly supports the **America's Affordable Health Choice Act of 2009, H.R. 3200**, which will make our health care system affordable, increase quality, and create access for the estimated 46 million Americans who are uninsured and the 17 million who are underinsured. The bill achieves these goals by doing the following:

- Lowering costs by eliminating co-pays and deductibles for preventative care, removing rate increases for pre-existing conditions, and guaranteeing affordable oral, hearing, and vision coverage for children.
- Greater personal choice is given by letting patients keep their health care providers and current health plan if they are satisfied with them, but also creates a public health insurance option to allow more competition in the market place.
- Higher quality by allowing patients and their providers to make decisions regarding care.
- Recruiting and retaining more primary care providers which will increase access to care.
- Coverage of mental health care services.
- Ends the practice of denying coverage for pre-existing conditions.
- Lifts the lifetime limit policy on how much insurance companies will pay.
- Gives patients more opportunities to make life changing decisions regarding career and family without having to worry about losing their health care coverage.

The health care system as it is now is not working for too many Americans and their families. The AAN believes that now is the time to transform our health care system into one that works for all Americans regardless of their ability to pay. Since nurses are on the frontlines in delivering health care to the most vulnerable in our society, they see firsthand how our broken health care system fails in its current form. The AAN applauds the three House Committees that oversaw the writing of the bill (Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, and Ways and Means). H.R. 3200 will go a long way toward fixing our broken system and creating one that gives all individuals access to affordable, quality health care.

Sincerely,

Pat Ford-Roegner MSW, RN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer

