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**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **ANA TESTIFIES ON CAPITOL HILL IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN WATER ACT**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA) was on Capitol Hill Thursday to testify before the House Transportation Committee in support of environmental reform legislation. Patricia Butterfield, PhD, RN of the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) spoke on behalf of ANA at the hearing on the “The Clean Water Act after 37 Years: Recommitting to the Protection of the Nation's Waters.”

The Clean Water Act, first passed in 1972, was enacted to protect and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation’s waters. Now, lawmakers are trying to improve implementation of the law, focusing on clear standards for point source pollution, adequate funding, and stronger enforcement.

“As a scientist, as a nurse, and as a citizen I want to know that the EPA and their state designates have the resources to enforce the Clean Water Act, “Dr. Butterfield testified. “It is important.... to know that intentional polluters, who seek to profit by poisoning our nation’s coastal areas, are caught and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. While I am only one person, I can speak for many of my nursing colleagues by stating that we support ... committing the requisite resources to ensure protection of our water and our health. Our citizens and your constituents deserve nothing less.”

**MORE...**

## CLEAN WATER ACT/2 of 2...

ANA, and the nursing profession have long recognized the impact of the environment on the individual. As Florence Nightingale wrote in her First Rule of Nursing, “keep the air within as pure as the air without.” Nurses regularly encounter diseases such as asthma, allergies, autoimmune conditions, infertility, cancer, and physiological and psychological stress that are caused or exacerbated by environmental contaminants.

To learn more about ANA’s position statements on environmental issues please visit

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/OccupationalandEnvironmental/environmentalhealth/PolicyIssues.aspx>

To learn more about ANA’s environmental advocacy and its work on other legislative issued affecting the nursing profession, please visit

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAPoliticalPower.aspx>

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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 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.*