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NEWS RELEASE



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**Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Programs Make Sense
For Safety and Economic Reasons, ANA Tells Capitol Hill Audience**
Rep. Conyers Says Time to Move Bill ‘As Fast as We Can’

SILVER SPRING, MD – American Nurses Association (ANA) leaders, health care worker safety experts and a congressman urged action on a bill that would reduce injuries by eliminating manual patient lifting and require employers to implement a safe patient handling and mobility plan, at a Capitol Hill briefing May 28.

ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, RN, FAAN, told about 50 congressional staff members that a successful safe patient handling and mobility program has the potential to increase patient safety and decrease staff injuries by as much as 95 percent, while increasing nurse retention and recruitment.

“In no other profession would we ask workers to lift 90 pounds or more without mechanical support—nurses and health professionals should not be the exception,” Daley said. “It is in everyone’s best interest to support policies that result in the elimination of manual patient handling.”



ANA sponsored the briefing to support federal legislation protecting nurses and other health care workers from costly, potentially career-ending injuries and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) caused by manual patient handling, such as lifting, transferring, and re-positioning. A comprehensive safe patient handling and mobility program also protects patients from injuries caused by falls and complications from immobility, such as pressure ulcers.

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The [Nurse and Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2013 \(H.R. 2480\)](#), crafted with input from ANA, is sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), a long-time champion, Rep. George Miller (D-CA) and 12 co-sponsors.

“We think it’s time,” Rep. Conyers told the audience. “It’s obviously the largest cause of accidents. This is a way to save money, not a disincentive.”

The legislation incorporates principles from ANA’s [Safe Patient Handling and Mobility: Interprofessional National Standards](#), a foundation for creating, implementing, and managing a safe patient handling and mobility program. The standards apply to diverse health care settings, such as hospitals, long-term care, and rehabilitation, and are designed to infuse a stronger culture of safety in health care work environments.

[Health care worker injuries](#) have been a long-standing problem. RNs ranked fifth among all occupations in 2012 for cases of musculoskeletal disorders resulting in days away from work, with 11,610, according the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In ANA’s 2011 [Health and Safety Survey](#), 62 percent of RNs indicated that suffering a disabling musculoskeletal injury was one of their top three safety concerns, and more than half experienced musculoskeletal pain that was caused or made worse by their job in a 12-month period.

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