



8515 GEORGIA AVENUE, SUITE 400
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910-3492
301 628-5000 • FAX 301 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

BARBARA A. BLAKENEY, MS, RN
PRESIDENT

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

October 27, 2005

The Honorable John Larson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter King
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Larson and King:

I am writing on behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA) to applaud your efforts to promote the fire safety for our most vulnerable patients. The Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005 will certainly help to protect nursing home residents.

ANA is the only full-service national association representing Registered Nurses (RNs). Through our 54 constituent members associations, we represent RNs in all practice settings throughout the United States.

The recent deaths of residents in nursing home fires in Harford, Connecticut and Nashville, Tennessee as well as the deaths of nursing home residents in the emergencies caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have demonstrated the need to increase the safety of these facilities. Many nursing home residents are limited in their mobility and cognitive function, thus limiting their ability to evacuate the facility. The National Fire Protection Association has shown an 82 percent reduction in the chances of death occurring in a nursing home with fully automatic sprinklers. Yet, 20 to 30 percent of all nursing homes lack sprinkler systems.

The Nursing Home Fire Safety Act is needed to provide for the safety of patients that can not protect themselves. Thank you for your continued commitment to the health of nursing home residents. ANA looks forward to working with you to support the passage of the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN
Director,
Government Affairs