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KAREN A. DALEY, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 6, 2012

Dear Representative,

The American Nurses Association (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. We work on the front lines treating respiratory and cardiovascular health challenges and beyond treating the sick; we are equally invested in preventing chronic illness. Specifically, we view reducing air pollution as a critical prevention strategy that will reduce thousands of asthma attacks, heart attacks, and premature deaths every year. With our commitment to prevention in mind, the ANA supports efforts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen pollution limits on fine particulate matter—or soot. With the health of the American people in mind, ANA hopes that Congress will serve as an ally in the fight against air pollution.

Children, senior citizens, and those who work outside are especially sensitive to soot pollution. As the American Academy of Pediatrics has noted, children—unlike adults—spend more time outside, are exposed to more air pollutants and have lungs that are still developing. This reality makes children more vulnerable to all forms of soot emissions. Communities suffering from the burdens of air pollution and the nurses that treat them are looking to Congress to support the rights of all Americans to safely breathe where they live, work, and play.

Currently, the annual soot standard is 15 micro grams per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and the daily standard is 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The EPA's proposed revisions would retain the daily standard and reduce the annual soot pollution limits to a range between 12-13 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. We applaud this life-saving move forward and would welcome an even more protective annual standard of 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Less soot in our air will not only save lives but money too. Adopting soot reductions in the lowest EPA-proposed limits are projected to save the American people between \$2.3-5.9 billion annually in avoided health costs.

ANA believes that a healthy environment is a universal need and fundamental human right. Reducing soot emissions saves lives, reduces healthcare costs, and improves quality of life. For the preceding reasons, we look forward to EPA issuing stronger soot emission limits to help build healthier communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose J. Gonzalez".

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN
Director of Government Affairs