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February 28, 2007

Professional Regulation Commission
Chair, Board of Nursing
Department of Labor & Employment
P. Paredos Street
Corner N. Reyes Street
Sampaloc, Manila 1008
Philippines

Dear Board of Nursing:

The American Nurses Association (ANA) appreciates the difficulty related to events as they have unfolded since the June 2006 nursing examination. It is clear that this has been a very trying time for nurses and nursing in the Philippines. Recognizing that this is a matter of the public's health and safety, ANA stands in solidarity with you as you pursue all strategies to restore the integrity of the professional nursing examination and licensure process.

The United States clearly benefits from the many excellent Philippine nurses who come here to practice nursing. Within this context, the ANA Board of Directors gave serious consideration to the implications of the compromised exam, particularly given the public's reliance on this process as a measure of nursing knowledge. As a result of these deliberations, the ANA Board passed a resolution stating that all passing applicants of the June 2006 Philippine nurse licensure examination, wishing to be considered for entrance into the United States to practice nursing, should be required to retake a new and different nurse licensure test and obtain a passing score. This action should not in any way penalize or be unduly burdensome to the impacted nurses. ANA certainly understands that the June 2006 applicants who passed the examination are lawfully licensed to practice nursing in the Philippines.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of these concerns. I wish you well in your efforts to advance the nursing profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca M. Patton RN". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR
President

cc: Dr. Leah Primitiva G. Samaco-Paquiz
President, Philippine Nurses Association

Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, CNAAB, BC
Chief Executive Officer, American Nurses Association