

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) – the representative professional organization for nearly 37,000 emergency nurses across the United States – believes that

- Public officials should work to provide all individuals with equitable access to comprehensive health care services, including services for the medical conditions of mental disorders, alcohol and substance abuse, and addictions.
- Everyone in the nation should have access to a health home for basic care, health promotion, and non-urgent medical needs.
- Proposals for health care reform should remove those factors that impede individuals from attaining the necessary quality care to which all persons are entitled.
- Emergency services and trauma care have reached a crisis in the United States, chiefly due to emergency department crowding and boarding, lack of health care providers, and the burden of uncompensated care. Thus, we need to reduce and eliminate factors that contribute to crowding/boarding by addressing both operational and policy issues as systemic problems.

As a national elected leader, you have an historic opportunity to improve the health and well-being of the American public. On behalf of the emergency nurses of this country and their patients, the Emergency Nurses Association strongly urges you to reach agreement this year on health system reforms that incorporate the principles that we have cited.

Sincerely yours,



William T. Briggs, RN, MSN, CEN, FAEN
President

Similar letters were transmitted to every Member of Congress.