



ANA-NY Salutes Medicare & Medicaid's 50th Anniversary

Safety net programs a bedrock anchor for U.S. healthcare system

Albany, NY, July 30, 2015 – The American Nurses Association – New York (ANA-NY) joins the American Nurses Association and a wide array of healthcare professionals and proponents in celebrating the historic 50th anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Signed into law on July 30, 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, Medicare provides health insurance for senior citizens, as well as people with disabilities, while Medicaid covers low income adults and children. Medicare covered 53.8 million people in 2014 and Medicaid cared for an estimated 72.5 million in 2013.

“As professional registered nurses, we believe that access to affordable, quality healthcare is a basic human right,” said Elizabeth “Betty” Mahoney, EdD, RN, President of ANA-NY. “For 50 years, Medicare and Medicaid have been a key part of the safety net system that ensures Americans access to the healthcare they need and deserve.”

Medicare and Medicaid have been credited with improving the health and financial wellbeing of millions of Americans. ANA-NY supports the preservation and strengthening of Medicare and Medicaid, as well as the goals of the Affordable Care Act to improve health, increase access to healthcare and improve the overall healthcare system.

“It is critical that policy makers at all levels ensure Medicare and Medicaid remain the robust safety net programs we need to drive innovation and improvement across the nation’s healthcare system,” Mahoney said. “These critical programs can be a key part of the continued evolution of a seamless, cost-effective healthcare system that is focused on patients and prevention.”

###

ANA-New York is the professional association for registered nurses in the state. Launched in December 2012, ANA-New York is dedicated to promoting excellence in nursing practice, seeks to improve the quality of health care services, and promotes professional and leadership development of registered nurses. Learn more at <http://ana-newyork.org>

<http://www.medicare.gov/anniversary/index.html>