



**Public Policy Workgroup  
Annual Report  
June 12, 2010**

**Submitted by: Cathalene Teahan, MSN, CNS, RN**

**I. Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:**

A. Organizational sign on letters:

- 1) Friends of HRSA
- 2) Letter opposing Murowski effort to overturn EPA greenhouse gas findings
- 3) Title V Maternal and Child Health Service Block Grant in FY 2011
- 4) FY 2011 Division of STD Prevention funding letter
- 5) Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief 2010 ANSR Consensus Document with the Alliance "ask" for FY 2011
- 6) STD FY 2011 Appropriation letter
- 7) STD FY 2011 Health Funding letter
- 8) CDC FY 2011 Community Appropriation letter
- 9) 317 Coalition General Support letter
- 10) Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and regulations adopted in December, 2008 re-interpreting the law letter to Congress

B. Other items:

- 1) ANA Scope and Standards- the PHN Section of the APHA sent in comments
- 2) APHA- ASTDN will partner for National PH week April 5-11
- 3) 2010 is the first year that advocacy training and Congressional visits will occur during the annual meeting June 10-12. The advocacy training will be provided by ANA's

lobbyists. The public policy workgroup identified two key issues: Title VIII funding and increasing the knowledge of Congressional leaders regarding the value of public health nurses. Fact sheets were compiled pertaining to the issues noted.

## **II. Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:**

### **A. Demonstrating the value and contributions of PHN:**

This issue is highlighted by the recent recommendation by NACCHO calling for the use of public health extension service personnel. This new category of professionals will be another mechanism to saturate the public health market with non- public health nurses. Thus, as previously stated by Mrs. Engelhart, RN, BSN we need to properly articulate the value of public health nurses to the community. Otherwise, we are allowing our profession to be outsourced by cheaper public health workers. More than ever, the quad council needs to address this broader issue rather than being left out of a recommendations document. If we delay in advocating our roles and rallying support we will be replacing one PHN at a time.