

**Sent:** Wed, 15 Jul 2009 12:22:31 -0400

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"Weister, Scott R." <scott.weister@whmo.mil>

**Subject:** REVISED FINAL nurses/health reform remarks

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One tweak. Please use this version as final. Thanks.

REVISED FINAL 07/15/09

Keenan

6-4698 desk

P6/b(6)

**Remarks of President Barack Obama  
On Health Reform and America's Nurses  
The White House  
July 15, 2009**

I'm pleased to be joined today by representatives from the American Nurses Association on behalf of the 2.9 million registered nurses in America – men and women who know as well as

anyone the urgent need for health reform.

I should disclose right off the bat that I have a long-standing bias towards nurses. When Sasha, our younger daughter, contracted a dangerous case of meningitis when she was just three months old, we were terrified. But it was the nurses who were there with us, explaining what was going on, telling us it would all be okay.

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This is a problem we can no longer wait to fix. Deferring reform is nothing more than defending the status quo – and those who would oppose our efforts should take a hard look at just what it is they're defending. Over the last decade, health insurance premiums have risen three times faster than wages. Deductibles and out-of-pocket costs are skyrocketing. And every single day we wait to act, thousands of Americans lose their insurance, some turning to nurses in the emergency room as their only recourse.

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But here's what else reform will mean for you: you'll save money. If you lose your job, change your job, or start a new business, you'll still be able to find quality health insurance you can afford. If you have a preexisting medical condition, no insurance company will be able to deny you coverage. You won't have to worry about being priced out of the market. You won't have to worry about one illness leading your family into financial ruin. That's what reform means.

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REVISED FINAL 07/15/09  
Keenan  
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On Health Reform and America's Nurses  
The White House  
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