

ANA

- I'm Angela Beddoe
- And I'm proud to stand up
- And speak out
- For America's nurses
- It's a little intimidating to be standing in front of the people
- Who stand on the front lines of every crisis we have faced
- And who will be standing on the front lines of the next crisis
 - And the next crisis
 - And the next
 - And the one after that
- I can't impress you
- Because you have seen it all.
- So, nurses of America:
- Let me just thank you.
- To the healthcare executives, policymakers out there
- To everyone who ever had a nurse stand by them
- During their time of crisis
- Why don't you join me in standing up and applauding and thanking all these nurses!
- Thank you!
- Thank you!
- Thank you!
- Let's also take a moment to think about the nurses who couldn't be here
- Because they are out there standing by someone in their time of need!
- Nurses deserve your gratitude
- They deserve your respect
- But what they need is your support
 - Your advocacy
 - Your voice
- They need you to speak up in doctors' offices
 - In hospitals
 - In boardrooms
 - In state capitols

- And in the halls of Congress
- Don't get me wrong
- Nurses are speaking up for themselves
- Because even though they know when to be quiet
- When to listen
- They are not afraid to get loud!
- But they are busy
- Right now, nurses are busy in Texas
 - Dealing with the largest measles outbreak
 - In a decade
- They are busy caring for the victims
 - And families
- Of school shootings
- Of car crashes
- Of domestic violence
- Of opioid addiction
- Of suicide attempts
- But who is caring for them?
- When times get bad
- They don't get to quiet quit
- They need to keep going
- And they do keep going
- And going
- And going
- Until...
- Until what?
- Until burnout.
- Until short staffing
- Long hours
- Unsustainable workloads
- Drive them away

- And it takes a lot to drive a nurse away
- If you have ever seen a nurse giving a shot
- To a child
 - Or to some adults I have known
- You know that they are patient
- They don't give up
- They finish the job
- Which means we can't give up
- The ANA
 - And everybody in this room
- Can't going to stop fighting
- Fighting for safety measures that protect nurses
- From the continued threat of violence
 - Because that danger didn't end with COVID!
- From staffing shortages
- That threaten the health of nurses and patients
- Fighting for the pay and benefits
- That reflect their critical role
- As professionals on the front line
- You deserve more
- And your patients need the kind of world class care
- That you only get from a nurse
 - No disrespect intended to any doctors in the house
 - But also, you know it's true
- I want to thank you one more time
- Because you deserve it
- But more importantly,
- I promise to be relentless
- In supporting you
- And demanding that policymakers at every level
- Give you what you need to do your job
- Without fear of burnout
- Without fear of harm
- And with the knowledge
- That you are loved for the care you give

- That you are respected for the skills you bring
- And that you are honored for improving all our lives
- Thank you and God bless you.