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American Academy of Nursing Applauds Release of IOM Report on LGBT Health

Washington, DC (April 5, 2011) - The American Academy of Nursing applauds the release of *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*, a report issued Thursday by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The report had been requested by the National Institutes of Health to assess the state of the science on the health status of LGBT populations, identify research gaps and outline a research agenda to assist NIH in enhancing its research efforts on LGBT health. The IOM convened a 17-member panel of health care experts to prepare the report. Among the panel's members was Academy Fellow and former Board member Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the Columbia University School of Nursing.

The report identifies significant gaps in knowledge about the unique health problems and needs experienced by LGBT individuals and outlines priorities for improving the evidence base for LGBT health concerns. It calls for improved data collection on the demographics of LGBT populations, improved methods for data collection and analysis, and increased participation of sexual and gender minorities in research.

"The IOM Committee was committed to developing a report that would highlight the factors that have influenced disparities in health for individuals within the LGBT community along with priorities for research. The work contained in this report has the opportunity to improve our understanding of what steps could be made to improve the conditions within which the diverse groups that make up the LGBT community can experience improved health," said Bobbie Berkowitz.

Nursing can contribute to research efforts to reduce LGBT health disparities and thus help to promote better health and health care for all people. American Academy of Nursing President Catherine Gilliss noted, "The American Academy of Nursing is committed to diversity and inclusion, and we commend the IOM for recognizing the importance of the research efforts on LGBT health."

The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding can be accessed at: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/The-Health-of-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-People.aspx>

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The American Academy of Nursing (www.aannet.org) anticipates and tracks national and international trends in health care, while addressing resulting issues of health care knowledge and policy. The Academy's mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.