ANAC
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Statement from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) on the Killing of Alex Jeffrey Pretti, RN

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) is profoundly saddened and outraged by the killing of Alex Jeffrey Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System, who was fatally shot by federal agents in Minneapolis on January 24, 2026.

Nurse Pretti was a dedicated clinician who served veterans and was widely described by colleagues, family and community members as compassionate, committed to social justice and deeply devoted to the well-being of others. Nurse Pretti's life was centered on caring for others. His life and work embodied the core values of nursing: advocacy, service and the protection of human dignity.

We want to be clear: ANAC unequivocally condemns the use of lethal force against any human being. As nurses, we especially feel the loss of a nurse to violence. Nurse Pretti's death is not only a tragedy for his family and loved ones, but also for the nursing profession, the veteran patients he served and the broader community. When a nurse is killed, it reverberates across health care systems already strained by workforce shortages, moral distress and threats to the safety of health professionals.

ANAC calls for a full, transparent and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding Nurse Pretti's death. Accountability, due process and public transparency are essential to maintaining trust and upholding the rule of law. No human being should be subjected to violence or killed for peacefully exercising their rights as community members, advocates and witnesses to injustice.

ANAC stands in solidarity with Nurse Pretti's family, colleagues at the VA and the nursing community nationwide and globally. We honor his life and service, and we recommit ourselves to advocating for the safety, dignity and human rights of nurses, patients and the communities we serve.

The nursing profession cannot remain silent when one of our own is lost to violence. We will continue to speak out for justice, for the protection of health care workers, and for policies that prioritize life, accountability and human dignity.

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) is the leading nursing organization responding to HIV/AIDS and related co-morbidities and co-occurring conditions globally. Founded in 1987, our mission is to promote the education and development of nurses and others involved in the delivery of health care to persons living with, or affected by, HIV and to promote the health and welfare of people living with HIV/AIDS around the world.