Marketa Houskova

DNP, RN

Chief Executive Officer, American Nurses Association/California

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Dr. Marketa Houskova's path to leading one of California's most influential nursing organizations began under the Communist regime in then-Czechoslovakia — where access to higher education was denied to her. Fueled by determination, she immigrated through England and Canada to pursue her American Dream, ultimately earning a Doctorate in Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership of Healthcare Systems from the University of San Francisco. What started as a volunteer role at the American Nurses Association – California (ANA\C) grew into a career-defining mission. As Chief Executive Officer since 2023 — and Executive Director since 2017 — Dr. Houskova has driven a 300% increase in membership, tripled the organization's budget, and launched the ANA\C Advocacy Institute with its Nurses in Policy and Nurses in Media Fellowship programs. She has championed groundbreaking reports on mental health, racism in nursing, and LGBTQI+ inclusion, while advocating for nurses at the California State Capitol, state agencies, and the U.S. Congress. A former Fellow at the Office of the Vice President of the European Parliament and a global health advisor, Dr. Houskova brings rare international perspective to her work. She is a sought-after speaker, thought leader, and a tireless champion for the nursing profession — proving that borders, regimes, and barriers are no match for vision and purpose.

Dr. Marketa Houskova is more than an executive. She is a movement.

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