



WNA
WISCONSIN NURSES
ASSOCIATION

Legislative and Regulatory Agenda
for the 2017 – 2019 Biennium

The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) is the professional organization for all registered nurses in Wisconsin. This document summarizes the 2017 - 2019 legislative and regulatory policies that are important to the nursing profession.

Assumption

WNA collectively and collaboratively advocates for access to comprehensive and coordinated health care services which enables all individuals to achieve optimal quality of life across the continuum. WNA promotes active patient and family engagement and values the patient and family as equal members of the health care team. WNA supports an efficient, transparent, patient-centered health care system that includes: community based primary care, prevention and wellness services, and chronic disease management, as well as care transitions that reduce the need for more costly medical treatment and hospitalization. WNA also recognizes that quality nursing care will only be achieved through the creation of an educated, competent and sustainable nursing workforce. Furthermore, we must provide assurances that the registered nurse is recognized and utilized as an essential member of the interdisciplinary team in all practice settings. WNA supports and promotes the evidence that access to quality health care for all people can be achieved if registered nurses are utilized to the full extent of their education, skills, expertise and licensure. Access to advanced practice registered nurses is particularly critical if all people are to receive health care; therefore, we strongly support policies that eliminate barriers and restrictions on the scope of professional nursing practice in Wisconsin. Finally, WNA members firmly believe that, if we are to achieve the goals of enhancing the patient experience, improving population health, reducing health care costs and improving the practice experience in Wisconsin, registered nurses will be actively involved in all aspects of the planning, advocacy and implementation of a transformed health care delivery system.

WNA supports the following:

The Patient Experience

1. Supporting patient engagement and self-management that includes health literacy and care management services that support transitions of care.

2. Engagement of patients as partners in their health care.
 3. Protection of the rights of patients in all health care plans.
 4. Patient access to and engagement in their personal health information.
 5. Protection of the rights and safety of patients in and across all health care settings.
 6. Comprehensive and judicious approach to minimizing overuse/abuse of prescribed or non-prescribed opioids that include crisis intervention, in-patient and community-based treatment and support.
 7. Support the patient's active engagement in advanced care planning.
 8. Access to patient-centered team-based care.
 9. Patient access to telehealth services and care.
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Population Health

1. Recognition and optimization of addressing the social determinants of health.
 2. Continued state funding of services for children, families and vulnerable populations.
 3. A strong viable public health system and infrastructure.
 4. Comprehensive primary care delivery offering prevention and health promotion with ties to community-based health services
 5. Addressing all of the health focus areas identified in Wisconsin's State Health Plan "Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer"
 6. Community-based prevention services including screening, nutrition, immunizations, family planning, violence prevention and health education across the life-span,
 7. Protection of people living in Wisconsin from chemical, physical and psychological forces in the environment that affect health.
 8. Protection of the environment from potentially harmful human impact so that both natural and manmade environments are health enhancing.
 9. Sufficient funding to serve all Medicaid eligible individuals.
 10. A well-prepared emergency response and recovery system.
 11. Expansion of coordinated, community-based health care services that include home care, long-term care, palliative and end-of-life care.
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Reducing Cost

1. Appropriate utilization of APRNs and RNs.
 2. Patient-centered and evidence-based program planning, policy and delivery systems.
 3. Affordable prescription drugs, medical supplies, and health care services that are accessible and preventable.
 4. Access to affordable oral health services.
 5. Funding for community based prevention and treatment services including mental health, smoking cessation, weight management, substance abuse for alcohol, prescription drugs, opioid and other substances of abuse services.
 6. Funding innovation that reduces health care costs, improves quality and engages the patient and family.
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Improving the Practice Experience for Nurses

1. Increasing the supply of nurses.
2. Funding for student loans and financial aid for nursing education with an emphasis on supply shortages.
3. Funding for increasing the capacity of nursing education programs to minimize wait times for nursing students
4. Funding for an interdisciplinary study commission to develop a strategy to advance interprofessional education throughout Wisconsin.
5. Increasing the supply of certified nurse assistants through better pay, adequate training and nursing instructors.
6. A strong, viable and transparent Board of Nursing and its related infrastructure.
7. Reporting of care related concerns by nurses without retaliation.
8. Elimination of exposure to toxins in the health care environment.
9. Utilization of RNs as care coordinators in the primary care setting.
10. Utilization of RNs to facilitate transition of care.
11. Implementation of best practice models for nursing education and leadership.
12. Title recognition and licensure for APRNs.

13. Supporting diverse nursing populations by increasing graduation and matriculation of minority nurses and recognizing the importance of cultural congruence in health care.
 14. Nurse staffing systems and strategies that are based on “ANA’s Principles for Nurse Staffing”.
 13. Implementation of effective institutional and agency policies that address minimizing nursing fatigue in the workplace.
 14. Elimination of bullying and violence in the workplace.
 15. Identification of and public reporting of nursing quality outcome measures and other nursing related research.
 16. Funding for data driven planning for the future nursing workforce.
 17. Promotion of safe patient handling and ergonomic protection for nurses.
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WNA Mission

Wisconsin Nurses Association is committed to advancing nurses and the nursing profession to improve health for Wisconsin.

Purposes of WNA

- Foster high standards of nursing,
- Stimulate and promote the professional development of nurses and advance their welfare,
- Work for the improvement of health standards and the availability of health care services for all people, and
- Advocate for workplace standards that foster safe patient care and support the profession.

Core Values

Respect, Integrity, Unity, Diversity, Excellence

Resources

“Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer”

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hw2020/index.htm>

“ANA Principles for Nurse Staffing”

<http://www.nursingworld.org/principles>

“The Future of Nursing Leading Change, Advancing Health”

<http://www.thefutureofnursing.org/IOM-Report>

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