

# Wisconsin Nurses Association Legislative and Regulatory Agenda for the 2019 – 2020 Biennium

## Assumptions

Registered nurses are critical to achieving the goals of improving population health and reducing health care costs in Wisconsin.

### **WNA members firmly believe that:**

- Quality nursing care is dependent upon an educated, competent and sustainable nursing workforce.
- The practice setting for registered nurses must be conducive to delivering safe, timely, and accessible care.
- Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses need to be actively involved in all aspects of planning, advocacy, implementation, care coordination and direct care within a transforming healthcare system.
- Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are essential members of the interdisciplinary team.
- Access to quality healthcare for all people is achievable if registered nurses are utilized to the full extent of their education, skills, expertise and licensure.
- Access to advanced practice registered nurses is critical if all people are to receive quality health care in Wisconsin.
- Barriers and restrictions on the scope of professional nursing practice in Wisconsin should be eliminated.

WNA collectively and collaboratively advocates for access to comprehensive and coordinated health care which enables all individuals to achieve optimal quality of life across the continuum.

### **WNA members firmly believe that:**

- Patients, families and caregivers are actively engaged and valued as equal members of the health care team.
- Efficient, transparent, patient-centered health care systems include: primary care, community-based programs, prevention and wellness services, chronic disease management as well as care transitions that reduce the need for more costly medical treatment and hospitalization.
- Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses provide quality health care and patient outcomes.



The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) is the professional organization for all registered nurses in Wisconsin. This document summarizes the 2019-2020 legislative and regulatory policies that are important to the nursing profession.

## Nursing Practice

- Improve the care quality, safety and satisfaction of the patient and their family and caregiver.
- Promote nurses' role in comprehensive and judicious approach to minimizing overuse/abuse of opioids that include crisis intervention, in-patient, community-based treatment and support and access to Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Assure nurses' role in coordinated, community-based health care services that include home care, long-term care, palliative and end-of-life care.
- Allow registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to practice to the full extent of their education, training, experience and license to improve patient outcomes.
- Utilize registered nurses as care coordinators throughout all settings of healthcare, including facilitation and coordination of transitions of care.
- Adopt national nursing standards for title recognition, licensure, education, certification and accreditation for advanced practice registered nurses.
- Identify and incorporate public reporting of nursing quality outcome measures and other nursing-related research.

## Access

- Protect the rights and safety of patients in and across all health care settings.
- Support access to patient-centered team-based care that includes family/caregivers.
- Provide access to telehealth services and care for the patient that are delivered or coordinated by registered nurses and/or advanced practice registered nurses.
- Continue state funding of services for children, families and vulnerable populations.
- Support community-based prevention services including screening, nutrition, immunizations, family planning, violence prevention and health education across the life-span.
- Provide accessible and affordable prescription drugs, medical supplies, and health care services, including dental and preventative services.

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## Education

- Assure nurses are well prepared to respond to emergencies and enact recovery systems.
- Educate nurses to apply evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes.
- Increase the supply of nurse educators through a variety of funding options that include student loans, loan forgiveness, fellowships, and financial aid.
- Increase the capacity of nursing education programs to minimize wait times for nursing students through targeted funding.
- Increase the supply of diverse nursing populations by encouraging the selection of nursing as a career supporting degree completion, matriculation of minority nurses and supporting the importance of cultural congruence in health care.
- Continue to fund data driven planning via Nursing Workforce Survey, including forecasting supply and demand needs for future nursing workforce.

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## Workforce

- Implement effective institutional and agency policies to minimize nurse fatigue in the workplace.
- Report care related concerns by nurses without retaliation.
- Eliminate bullying and violence in the workplace.
- Promote safe patient handling and ergonomic protection for nurses.
- Eliminate exposure to toxins in the health care environment.

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## **WNA Mission**

Wisconsin Nurses Association advancing our profession to improve health for all.

## **Purposes of WNA**

WNA is a catalyst for transforming health care and advancing the nursing profession to improve health for all in Wisconsin.

## **Core Values**

Service-focused, Innovative, Data Driven, Impactful, Inclusive and Integrity



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