



**March 21, 2020**

**Governor Gavin Newsom**

State Capitol of California  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

The State Board for the California Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) is seeking your support of nursing students. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about changes in all of our lives and disrupted education for students across the nation. For nursing students specifically, classes have transitioned to online formats, participation at clinical sites has been denied, and graduations have been postponed. The long-term implications of these changes include a shortage of qualified nurses to serve our health systems and community.

California needs to join states such as Texas and Louisiana in mandating temporary changes to regulations involving nursing student education. We stand in solidarity with our educational institutions and nurse leaders in adapting to this new normal. The nursing students of California need an environment that is conducive to the fulfillment of our purpose.

Please see the attached statement addressed to the California Board of Registered Nursing:

“On behalf of the 6,070 nursing students we represent in the state of California, we are writing to address the issue of clinical hours that have been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with recommendations set forth by government institutions, nursing schools across the country have closed for in-person instruction but have maintained online classes in an attempt to keep students on track for graduation. Additionally, healthcare institutions have denied students' access to clinical placements indefinitely. The largest concern facing us and the healthcare industry is having a competent nursing workforce that is able to provide for our communities in the anticipated times of heightened need. Currently, over 27,000 nursing students and the institutions they attend are at a standstill because of the California Nursing Practice Act CCR Section 1426 (g)(2) mandating that 75% of clinical hours be performed in a direct care setting. We ask that you consider a temporary emergency measure granting flexibility and trust to our educational institutions. This will allow them to make the

necessary changes to meet course objectives and allow our future nurses the opportunity to enter the workforce without delay.

A majority of the students we have been in contact with mimic the same sentiment; we are willing to engage in any form of simulation or online education approved by our institutions and accreditation agencies to meet program objectives. Under these circumstances and as we collectively experience a global health crisis, we ask that you enact the temporary changes in regulation immediately.”

We appreciate your time and strong guidance. We hope that you and your loved ones remain safe.

Respectfully,

*Karolina Gasamanian*

**Karolina Gasamanian**

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