



March 21, 2020

California Board of Registered Nursing

1746 N. Market Blvd, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear 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.

Respectfully,

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