

# 2019 Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda

AWHONN represents the interests of 350,000 nurses working in women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing across the United States. The items listed below represent our legislative and policy priorities for 2018.

- Advocate for improved health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including women who are pregnant and incarcerated, have low income or substance use disorders, are members of racial or ethnic minority groups or immigrants, are military members or veterans, are currently trafficked or are at-risk for human trafficking, and/or are marginalized for their gender identities or relationship status.
- Maintain current and advocate for increased access to preventive health care services for all women, such as annual well-woman visits; HPV vaccination; mammograms; cervical cancer screening; pre, inter, and post-conception care; screening for domestic violence, substance use and human trafficking; and smoking cessation programs.
- Increase access to and information about the range of evidence-based options for contraception, to include Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for women of all reproductive ages including teenagers and adolescents, as well as access to LARC insertion in the immediate postpartum period.
- Ensure strong nursing representation on state, federal, and other multidisciplinary task forces, advisory boards, working groups, and maternal mortality review teams.
- Expand research funding and opportunities to investigate and alleviate the causes of maternal morbidity and mortality.
- Support national efforts to protect and promote breastfeeding through policy to support family leave up to 6 months, so women can establish and sustain breastfeeding.

- Support the use of advanced practice registered nurses and certified nurse midwives to meet the increasing demand for primary care and women’s health services, including support for federal efforts to reduce scope-of-practice barriers for advance practice nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Support federal efforts that aim to reduce student loan debt burden for nurses, including expanded access to federal aid and decreased tuition costs.
- Support initiatives to allow for unrestricted over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives that are low cost, covered by insurance, and available to people of all ages without restrictions, as well as full contraception coverage by all insurance payers with no out of pocket expense.