

State Employees

State employees include, but are not limited to, nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, dentists, dietitians, pharmacists, psychologists, nutritionists, and mental health workers who are employed in county health departments, state hospitals, and schools, among other locations.

The Florida Nurses Association takes the following position on these issues:

- We strongly **SUPPORT pay increases** and bonuses for our state health care professionals. They've gone six years without a pay raise. The average state-employee salary in the Florida Retirement System ("FRS") regular class is \$36,423. Florida's state government payroll is about 47 percent below the national average of \$72 per state resident.
- We **OPPOSE** any efforts to **remove the requirement** that the state negotiate benefits with respect to collective bargaining issues.
- We **OPPOSE any changes to the existing retirement plan** that would restrict options for state employees and move them into only a 401k type of plan. Florida's pension fund is one of the best performing funds in the country. Furthermore, pension benefits for retired employees are not extravagant and average \$16,000 to \$23,000 a year.
- We **OPPOSE any increased costs for health insurance** or any reduction in benefits or scope of services for state employees.
- We **OPPOSE** any proposed **cuts to the Department of Health** regarding county health departments, children's health, and other services.

Please help us protect these hard-working, dedicated people who serve the needs of Florida's citizens.