LEGISLATIVE AGENDA





FUNDING

WOKRPLACE SAFETY

PAYMENT PARITY

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

SCHOOL NURSES

EDUCATION

OUR PRIORITIES

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

NLAC recommends increasing access to care for Texans by removing needless barriers to practice for APRNs, such as delegation agreements, where APRNs often pay a physician the equivalent of an extra mortgage payment. In addition, APRNs cannot sign certain documents, including death certificates and vaccine exemptions. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, these administrative burdens provide no added value, increase costs and restrict access to care.

TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE

The dramatic expansion of telehealth and telemedicine during the pandemic has demonstrated its unmistakable value and acceptance by patients and providers. The state ensured providers are reimbursed fairly during the pandemic, and NLAC recommends that the legislature make this fair reimbursement permanent.

HB 515 by Rep. Tom Oliverson, HB 522 by Rep. Julie Johnson, SB 228 by Sen. Cesar Blanco – Requires reimbursement parity for providers and clarifies that mental health services are subject to existing parity laws

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

NLAC recommends the legislature support facilities and providers in implementing safety plans to prevent incidents of violence. The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies reports one in two Texas nurses will become a victim of workplace violence at some point in their career.

HB 326 by Rep. Donna Howard – Requires facilities to adopt workplace violence prevention plans, encourages reporting of incidents of workplace violence, and ensures that providers receive the care they need after an incident





SURGICAL SMOKE EVACUATION

NLAC recommends adopting requirements for facilities to protect providers from surgical smoke. Perioperative nurses, surgeons, anesthesia providers, surgical technicians and multiple ancillary staff can be exposed to hazardous surgical smoke.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

When a peace officer, fire fighter or EMT gets sick, state law presumes it was in the course of their employment. When a nurse gets sick, they must go through the time-intensive, and potentially litigious, process of proving they became sick in the course of employment in order to access employee benefits. With thousands of nurses quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure or infection, NLAC asks the legislature to create a presumption for nurses who contract COVID-19.

HB 396 by Rep. Joe Moody – Creates a presumption that nurses who contracted COVID-19 did so in the scope of their employment

NURSE EDUCATION

According to a 2020 report from the Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, Texas will need nearly 60,000 more registered nurses by 2032. The Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP) provides incentive funding to institutions that increase nursing graduates. The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program (NFLRP) provides an incentive for nurses to accept faculty positions in nursing schools. Both of these programs have a proven track record of increasing the number of nurses in the state, combating the nursing shortage. NLAC recommends increasing funding for programs that address the nursing shortage.

SCHOOL NURSES

School nurses are the first line of caregivers for children with existing or new health issues. Without adequate school health services, students have greater absenteeism and poorer school performance. NLAC encourages the legislature to pull down additional federal Medicaid funding for school health services, especially to mitigate the increased risk to staff, students, faculty and families during outbreaks, such as COVID-19 or flu.

REGULATORY

NLAC supports the funding requests submitted in the Board of Nursing (BON) Legislative Appropriations Request. This funding will ensure continued stability at the BON, which is crucial for nurses seeking new or renewed licenses.



NURSING LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION

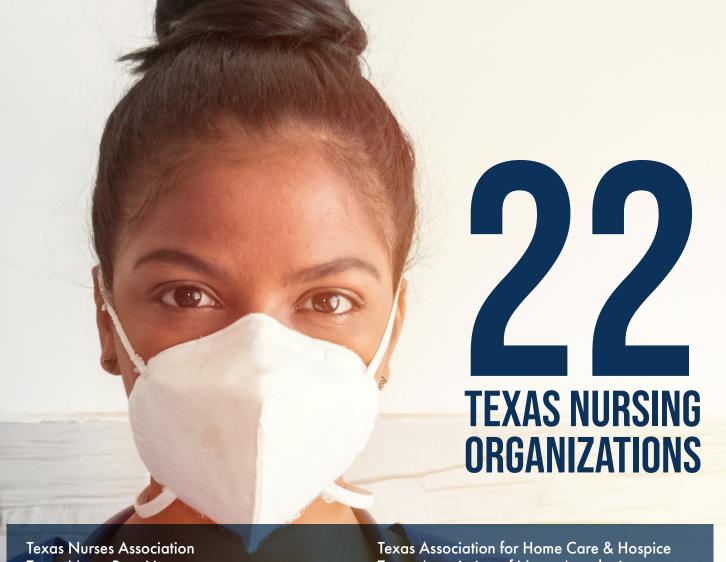
The Nursing Legislative
Agenda Coalition (NLAC)
is a coalition of nursing
organizations around
Texas that join together to
share ideas, strategies and
priorities for nursing issues
during the Texas Legislature.

Each legislative session, NLAC representatives work at the Capitol to further a nursing legislative agenda that the coalition developed and agreed upon during the interim.

This joint effort includes input from tens of thousands of nurses on each agenda item and amplifies our collective voice on issues that no individual organization alone could tackle.



NLAC is led by Texas Nurses Association, the oldest and largest nursing association in Texas. Our members represent all segments of nursing practice, and our mission is to empower nurses to advance the profession.



Texas Nurse Practitioners

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

- Greater Houston

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

- North Harris Montgomery County

Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses

Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives Houston Chapter of Oncology Nursing Society Houston Organization for Nursing Leadership Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse Associates of Austin

Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of Texas Texas Association of Deans & Directors of **Professional Nursing Programs**

Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators

Texas Clinical Nurse Specialists

Texas Collaboration of periOperative Registered Nurses

Texas Emergency Nurses Association

Texas Nursing Students Association

Texas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and

Graduate Nursing Education

Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership

Texas School Nurses Organization



IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL TEXANS BY SUPPORTING TEXAS NURSES





THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TEXAS NURSES

Acting on the issues in the NLAC Legislative Agenda will not only improve nurses' work environments but ultimately lead to better care for patients and all Texans.



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