

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



NLAC
Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition



250,000 REGISTERED NURSES
IN TEXAS
NEED YOUR SUPPORT

ISSUES

FUNDING

WORKPLACE 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



87TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

22

TEXAS NURSING ORGANIZATIONS

Texas Nurses Association
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 for Home Care & Hospice
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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