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.

- **HB 2029 by Rep. Stephanie Klick, SB 915 by Sen. Kelly Hancock** — Grants full practice authority to all four APRN roles
- **HB 1524 by Rep. Eddie Lucio** — Allows APRNs and PAs to prescribe schedule IIs under any circumstance and repeal the current carveout for hospital facility-based practices and hospice care
- **HB 982 by Rep. Donna Howard and Rep. Drew Darby** — Creates an expedited licensure process for APRNs who are licensed out of state

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.

- **SB 575 by Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, HB 1559 by Rep. Donna Howard** — Allows part-time nursing faculty to access NFLRP funds
- **SB 146 by Sen. Beverly Powell, HB 2062 by Rep. Stephanie Klick** — Creates a loan repayment program for nurses who work in long-term care
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.

SB 429 by Sen. Borris Miles — Requires facilities to maintain a smoke evacuation policy

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, HB 980 by Rep. Art Fierro, 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
**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.

*SB 238 by Sen. Beverly Powell — Allows schools to use their school safety allotment to employ school nurses and purchase testing equipment and PPE*

*HB 181 by Rep. Shawn Thierry— Requires schools to employ at least one full-time nurse at each campus and maintain an average of one nurse for every 750 students*

*HB 1055 by Rep. Christina Morales — Requires one registered nurse or other health care professional at each campus for no less than half of the school day*

*HB 3225 by Rep. Gina Hinojosa — Allows local educational agencies to request reimbursement for the provision of health care services to students under Medicaid*

**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.


**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.
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 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 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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