LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

243,000 REGISTERED NURSES IN TEXAS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

6 ISSUES
- APRN FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY
- NURSE EDUCATION
- SCHOOL NURSES
- WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION
- TEXAS WOMEN’S HEALTH
- PUBLIC HEALTH
OUR PRIORITIES

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

NLAC recommends increasing access to care for Texans by removing unnecessary barriers to practice for APRNs and preserving APRN practice.

- **HB 278** by Rep. Tom Oliverson – PAA supervision meetings by videoconference
- **SB 311** by Sen. Charles Perry – PAA supervision meetings by videoconference

PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION

NLAC supports public health initiatives that will benefit Texans and lower state health care expenditures. The Legislature should protect our youth by improving the quality of health education in schools and raising the minimum age of tobacco sales from 18 to 21. The Legislature should support communicable disease prevention by ensuring parents have the right to know about school vaccination exemption rates, requiring influenza vaccination and improving access to the safety-net immunization program.

- **SB 338** by Sen. Joan Huffman – Setting minimum tobacco purchase age at 21
- **HB 749** by Rep. John Zerwas – Setting minimum tobacco purchase age at 21

SCHOOL NURSES

School nurses are the first line of caregivers for children with existing or developing health issues. NLAC encourages the Legislature to allow providers in Texas to prescribe asthma inhalers to schools under a standing order so that school nurses can adequately provide emergency care to students in need.

WORKPLACE PROTECTION

NLAC supports applying safe patient handling and mobility requirements, mandatory overtime prohibitions, nurse staffing requirements and workplace safety procedural requirements for freestanding emergency facilities. These are required of hospitals, and freestanding centers should meet the same standards.

- NLAC supports legislation which expands workplace violence protection for health care facility employees and requires broad reporting and preventive measures.
  - **HB 1146** by Rep. Donna Howard – Requiring workplace violence protections for health care facilities

TEXAS WOMEN’S HEALTH COALITION

NLAC supports strengthening Women’s Health Programs, improving access to contraceptives and minimizing barriers to preventative care.

NURSE EDUCATION

The Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP) provides incentive funding to institutions that increase nursing graduates. Given the severity of the nursing shortage in Texas, NLAC recommends continuing this program and increasing both flexibility and utilization of the program with increased appropriation.

The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program provides an incentive for nurses to accept faculty positions in nursing schools. NLAC recommends increasing the flexibility of the program as well as the appropriation to support it.

- **SB 358** by Sen. Juan Hinojosa – Increasing flexibility in the NFLRP

PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION

NLAC supports public health initiatives that will benefit Texans and lower state health care expenditures. The Legislature should protect our youth by improving the quality of health education in schools and raising the minimum age of tobacco sales from 18 to 21. The Legislature should support communicable disease prevention by ensuring parents have the right to know about school vaccination exemption rates, requiring influenza vaccination and improving access to the safety-net immunization program.

- **SB 338** by Sen. Joan Huffman – Setting minimum tobacco purchase age at 21
- **HB 749** by Rep. John Zerwas – Setting minimum tobacco purchase age at 21

SCHOOL NURSES

School nurses are the first line of caregivers for children with existing or developing health issues. NLAC encourages the Legislature to allow providers in Texas to prescribe asthma inhalers to schools under a standing order so that school nurses can adequately provide emergency care to students in need.

WORKPLACE PROTECTION

NLAC supports applying safe patient handling and mobility requirements, mandatory overtime prohibitions, nurse staffing requirements and workplace safety procedural requirements for freestanding emergency facilities. These are required of hospitals, and freestanding centers should meet the same standards.

- NLAC supports legislation which expands workplace violence protection for health care facility employees and requires broad reporting and preventive measures.
  - **HB 1146** by Rep. Donna Howard – Requiring workplace violence protections for health care facilities

TEXAS WOMEN’S HEALTH COALITION

NLAC supports strengthening Women’s Health Programs, improving access to contraceptives and minimizing barriers to preventative care.

NURSE EDUCATION

The Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP) provides incentive funding to institutions that increase nursing graduates. Given the severity of the nursing shortage in Texas, NLAC recommends continuing this program and increasing both flexibility and utilization of the program with increased appropriation.

The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program provides an incentive for nurses to accept faculty positions in nursing schools. NLAC recommends increasing the flexibility of the program as well as the appropriation to support it.

- **SB 358** by Sen. Juan Hinojosa – Increasing flexibility in the NFLRP
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.

IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL TEXANS BY SUPPORTING TEXAS NURSES
Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are masters- or doctorate-level health care providers who are subject to specific occupational licensing barriers which limit access to care for patients and drive up the cost of health care in Texas.

Support HB 278 and SB 311

Supporting Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

AARP
APRN Alliance
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
The Heartland Institute
Leading Age Texas
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
NAMI Texas
Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition
R Street
Texas Association of Business
Texas Business Leadership Council
Texas Impact
The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature
Texas Public Policy Foundation
Texas Organization of Rural Community Hospitals
University Health System
Young Conservatives of Texas

Support SB 358

By 2030, Texas will be 60,000 nurses short.

Support HB 1146

What Texas Needs:
HB 1146 will require
- A workplace violence prevention policy and plans at health care facilities.
- An annual review of the plan.
- Workplace safety training.
- A system for responding to violent incidents.
- Facilities to provide post-incident treatment.

Workplace Violence

Of all workplace assaults, 70% occurred in health care and social service settings. One in two nurses has experienced workplace violence. HB 1146 will provide protections for nurses and other health care workers.

More Faculty Means More Nurses

In 2016, 30% of students were denied admittance to colleges of nursing due to a lack of faculty. The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program needs to be increased from $3 million to $10 million to incentivize more nurses to enter faculty positions to train the next generation of providers.

Support SB 358

MORE FACULTY MEANS MORE NURSES
In 2016, 30% of students were denied admittance to colleges of nursing due to a lack of faculty. The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program needs to be increased from $3 million to $10 million to incentivize more nurses to enter faculty positions to train the next generation of providers.
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.

CONTACT:
Andrew Cates
acates@texasnurses.org
512.452.0645 x157

texasnurses.org/NLAC