



Georgia Nurses Association 2012 Legislative Platform

CONSUMER ADVOCACY

As Georgia Registered Nurses, we endorse legislation, programs and funding which promote and enable all individuals to achieve optimal quality of life across the continuum. This includes comprehensive health care, education and a safe environment, as well as the basic needs of nutrition and shelter.

Georgia Registered Nurses support:

- ❖ An efficient, patient-centered healthcare system involving consumers as partners, accessible to all, with affordable community-based primary care, prevention and wellness services, chronic disease management as well as care transition services to reduce the need for more costly medical treatment and hospitalization.
- ❖ Efforts to develop evidence-based health policy to ensure equal access to healthcare services that focus on quality and patient safety.
- ❖ Access to all nursing care services with emphasis on adequacy and appropriateness of nurse staffing as provided in the American Nurses Association's Principles for Safe Nurse Staffing.
- ❖ The ability of all to select an appropriate health care provider of their choice.
- ❖ A health care system that treats individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, mental retardation and developmental disabilities with dignity and respect.
- ❖ Continued funding for services provided by the state of Georgia to patients, families and vulnerable populations.
- ❖ An appropriately funded, staffed and educated public health system to prepare for disasters, pandemics and other statewide emergencies
- ❖ School health programs for all children, which includes providing Registered Nurses in all schools.
- ❖ The provision of nutritionally-balanced meals in schools and child-focused community programs, physical education programs, and education for children on proper nutrition, and behaviors that a healthy lifestyle.
- ❖ Initiatives that support family caregivers.

WORKFORCE ADVOCACY

GNA believes that workplace safety of nurses warrants special attention and supports programs designed to prevent job-related injuries, illnesses and deaths, including identification and correction of workplace hazards. GNA promotes health and safety programs in the workplace.

Georgia Registered Nurses support:

- ❖ Ergonomics and safe patient handling as provided in the American Nurses Association's Handle with Care®.
- ❖ Safe levels of staffing, no-fault error reporting, protection from retribution for nurses reporting unsafe patient and work conditions.

The Georgia Nurses Association is the only statewide, non-profit, multi-purpose professional membership organization for all Registered Nurses in Georgia. The primary purpose of GNA is to provide direction and a voice for the profession of nursing regardless of academic preparation, specialty/advanced education, or other professional organization affiliation.

- ❖ Adequate rest and number of hours between shifts to prevent medical errors and promote physical and mental health of the nurse.
- ❖ Substance abuse awareness and prevention programs, as well as treatment, follow-up care, and monitoring for impaired nurses.
- ❖ Identification and elimination of health hazards in the work environment.
- ❖ Awareness and prevention of workplace violence.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

GNA believes that nursing has a unique role in bridging the gap between health care knowledge and providing cost-effective quality health care; that the responsibility for defining and regulating the practice of Nursing and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses rests solely with the Georgia Board of Nursing; and that all nurses should adhere to the American Nurses Association's Code of Ethics.

Georgia Registered Nurses support:

- ❖ Funding for innovative undergraduate and graduate nursing education models that meet regional and national accreditation standards; and for qualified nursing faculty.
- ❖ Recruitment of a diverse group of qualified students into programs of nursing education.
- ❖ Creation of a Georgia Nursing Workforce Center to collect, analyze, and disseminate data regarding the supply, demand, and retention of registered nurses.
- ❖ Nursing research and scholarship utilizing the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet[®] Recognition Program model to focus health care organizations on achieving superior performance as evidenced by outcomes incorporating evidence-based practice, innovation, evolving technologies and patient partnerships.
- ❖ A scope of practice to promote the professional nurse commensurate with licensure, education and level of skill.
- ❖ Removing barriers that hinder the practice of APRNs to the full extent of their education and training.
- ❖ Nurses' appointments to state legislative health care commissions, task forces and study committees, the state Board of Nursing, local health care boards and insurance committees.
- ❖ Monitoring legislation relative to practice aspects of nursing and nursing specialties.
- ❖ Evidence-based rules and regulations regarding the practice of professional nursing.