



Strengthening Georgia's Nursing Workforce

Nursing education programs in Georgia are challenged to produce a sufficient number of graduates to meet the demand for quality nursing care. Several factors have contributed to this, including a shortage of nursing faculty and budgetary challenges in traditional schools of nursing. Other recent regulatory snags have kept experienced nurses from practicing in our state. Georgia must be proactive in supporting innovative strategies that will bring competent registered nurses to our state to meet the health needs of our citizens. **GNA will support efforts to strengthen Georgia's nursing workforce, including the growth of traditional and non-traditional nursing education programs and the removal of redundant regulatory obstacles for experienced nurses to relocate to Georgia.**



Mandatory Reporting

Since 1981, the Georgia Nurses Association Nurse Advocate Program has offered support to nurses living with the disease of addiction. The Nurse Advocate Program collaborates with the Georgia Board of Nursing (GBON) in an effort to assist monitoring of impaired nurses and in seeking treatment for their addiction. In 2011, the GBON consulted GNA for its input on potential legislation, which would enact the mandatory reporting of a violation of the Georgia Nurse Practice Act. **GNA supports the Board of Nursing's initiative to enact a mandatory reporting statute to protect the public from those who violate the Nurse Practice Act.**



Nursing Scholarships & Workforce Planning

Funding for nursing scholarships and workforce planning through a special Nurse License Plate. Georgia continues to lag behind other states in the recruitment and retention of the nursing workforce. Funding from a special nurse license plate would allow funds to be used for nursing scholarships and workforce planning & development to meet future needs. GNF/GNA has initiated the creation of a nurse license plate. **GNF will continue this initiative with a portion of future proceeds to fund nursing scholarships and workforce planning & development.**



Nursing Practice & Regulation

Nurses in Georgia must practice to the full extent of their education and training. The Institute of Medicine's landmark 2010 report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, offers a thorough examination of the U.S. nursing workforce. The IOM Report recommends that "Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training." **GNA supports efforts to remove regulatory barriers to APRN scope of practice in Georgia.**



Essential Nursing Health Care Services

Georgia must support essential nursing health care services. State revenues have improved slightly for the upcoming fiscal year. It is critical that state funding continue to flow to essential nursing health care services, such as Public Health and PeachCare, to ensure the health and well-being of Georgia patients. **GNA believes essential nursing health care programs should be funded at or above FY 2012 levels. GNA also supports the continued funding of nursing care for children enrolled in Georgia public schools.**

To view GNA's 2012 Legislative Platform, visit:

<http://www.georgianurses.org/Platform2012Adopted.pdf>