



Essential Health Care Services

Essential services for Georgia citizens especially vulnerable populations. There are major budgetary constraints in Georgia the next few fiscal years. It is imperative that essential health care services be funded to ensure the health and well-being of Georgia citizens. **GNA believes that essential health care services should be available and accessible to Georgia citizens. Vital services such as PeachCare, indigent care and nursing care for school children should therefore be a priority in the state budget annually.**



Nurse Title Protection

The public must be confident of providers who use the title of “nurse”. The intent of restricting use of the title “nurse” is to protect the public from individuals who are not licensed nurses, yet lead the public to believe they can provide services that only nurses are licensed to provide. **GNA will pursue “nurse” title protection in the state of Georgia in an effort to safeguard the public and ensure patient safety.**



Nursing Scholarships & Workforce Planning

Funding for nursing scholarships and workforce planning through a special Nurse License Plate. Georgia has fallen 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 work with a portion of the proceeds to fund future nursing scholarships and workforce planning & development.**



Nursing Shortage

Traditional nursing education programs are challenged to produce a sufficient number of graduates to meet the demand for quality nursing care in Georgia. Education, practice and regulatory entities must be proactive in supporting traditional and non-traditional programs that can produce competent registered nurses to meet the health needs of Georgia citizens. **GNA will support additional resources and regulation for traditional and non-traditional nursing education programs to meet the demand for quality nursing care in Georgia.**



Safe Staffing

Safe staffing principles help RNs and nurse managers design the best environment possible for patient care. Several states have passed legislation based on the American Nurses Association’s (ANA) Safe Staffing Principles – unit specific/acuity based staffing, NOT mandated ratios. **GNA will continue to work with other stakeholders to study the need for legislation to implement ANA’s Safe Staffing Principles (www.safestaffingsaveslives.org) in Georgia.**



Nursing Regulation

Professionals must be accountable to their own professional regulatory bodies. Registered nurses are autonomous professionals who must be regulated by those who are educationally prepared in the art and science of nursing. **GNA believes that the regulation and oversight of all nursing practice should be held by nurses, through the authority of a state board of nursing.**

**To view GNA’s 2010 Legislative Platform, visit:
www.georgianurses.org/Platform2010Adopted.pdf**