

The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) advocates for efforts that promote Wisconsin's nursing workforce as **visible, valued, and vital**. We believe that legislation and regulation that benefit professional nursing have a direct impact on high quality and accessible health care for all Wisconsinites. The following are policy priorities that inform WNA's advocacy efforts.

WNA Policy Priority | Access

- Increase access to patient-centered, economical, safe, quality, ethical, and innovative health care for all through utilization of an educated and competent nursing workforce
- Through the passage of the APRN Modernization Act, increase utilization of APRNs to provide patients with timely access to high quality healthcare that is cost effective and meets their unique socioeconomic needs.
- Utilize Public Health nurses to redesign and reinforce Wisconsin's public health infrastructure and programs to address vulnerable populations and health disparities; support disease prevention and health promotion; and respond to public health emergencies.

WNA Policy Priority | Nursing Practice & Workforce

- Increase funding that supports public health nurses, community-based nursing services, and additional school and correctional health nurses to meet the needs of patients and families.
- Support funding for the ongoing collection of data on the current nursing workforce, and use the data generated from the nursing workforce surveys to develop strategies that support recruitment and retention of nurses.
- Promote safe practice by addressing hours of work and patient care needs and make the safety of practicing nurses a priority in care delivery environments through, for example, workplace violence prevention programs.

Guiding Principles for Health Care Delivery of Nursing Care

1. WNA and its members share a collective vision for Wisconsin's nurses and advocate for continued professional development in nursing, optimal working conditions, and individualized, comprehensive, and coordinated health care for all in Wisconsin.
2. Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are critical to improving healthcare delivery and population health in Wisconsin.
3. Strong interprofessional partnerships in health care positively impact the health of the public and provide additional opportunities to address health disparities and their causes.

WNA Policy Priority | Education

- Support the growth of a diverse nursing workforce in Wisconsin by providing early exposure, using a variety of recruitment strategies, hiring a diverse nursing faculty, sharing opportunities for dual credit and certification courses, and promoting educational pathways and community partnerships to create equitable educational opportunities for nursing students and practicing nurses.
- Identify barriers and needed resources to increase the number and diversity of nurse educators by addressing pay equity, implementing effective on-boarding programs, and ensuring continuation of the Wisconsin Nurse Educator Program loan forgiveness program.
- As a means of growing Wisconsin's nursing workforce, incentivize the role of 'nurse preceptor' by advocating for the adoption of tax-credit legislation for preceptors of nursing students.