

# ANA-Vermont Nurse Legislation Day

Presentation to House Committee on Health Care

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# ANA-Vermont represents professional nurses in Vermont

- ANA-VT is the professional association for nurses in Vermont and is dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare and nursing, to enhance the health of the people of Vermont and nurses, empowering nurses and advocating health and wellbeing
- Mission: To advocate for the nursing profession, health for people in Vermont, and affordable access to quality care for all.
- Vision: Inspire Vermont nurses to advance the nursing profession and the health of Vermonters

There are over 25,000 nurses in Vermont (BON, 2019 compact report) 4 Million Nurses in America.

- Nurses spend more time with patients than any other health care providers; hence are more aware of patient outcomes and care quality (DeLucia, Ott, & Palmieri, 2009).
- Nurses rated highest for honesty and ethics for 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year (Brenan, 2018)
- During a staffing shortage, less time will be spent with patients. This puts patients at risk for injury, and nurses at risk for burnout



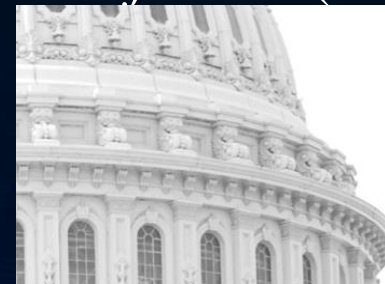
# Workforce Concerns

- An Aging Workforce with inadequate faculty and resources
  - By 2022 ANA national research anticipates more RN jobs available than any other profession
  - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the need for 1.1 million new RNs for expansion and replacement of retirees
  - We are in the midst of a crisis with State RN needs, between 2015 and 2030 growing 22% with highest growth rates in nursing home, residential care settings, & home health (AHEC, 2017)



# Nurse Workforce Development

- **In Vermont H.542** includes a Health Reform Oversight Committee and includes tuition assistance and loan repayment for masters level clinicians with a MSW, MA, or MS; bachelors level direct service staff; and nurses.
  - Under Sec. E.603 Vermont state colleges – allied health it recommends that the Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment funds appropriated in this section to support the dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, and nursing programs
- **Federally :** Title VIII Nursing Workforce programs represent the only dedicated federal program aimed at bolstering nursing education from entry-level preparation through graduate study. For five decades, these programs have helped build the supply of qualified nurses needed across health care settings. ANA will again work to reauthorize these programs through support of *Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019 (H.R. 728)*



# Education

**NURSES**  
MOST ETHICAL  
MOST HONEST  
MOST **ABUSED**

#EndNurseAbuse

- Higher Education
  - The nurse faculty vacancy rate is climbing; 1715 in 872 nursing schools (AACN, 2018). Average salary of a nurse practitioner, is at \$20,000 to 60,000 more than a master's-prepared nurse educator (RWJF, 2007; AACN, 2017).
  - More nurses are needed in education and practice to maintain quality care, yet nationally >75,000 students were turned away (AACN, 2019)

#EndNurseAbuse  
It's not acceptable, it's ABUSE



**NURSES** are at greater risk of workplace violence than **police officers** or **prison guards**.

# Health Professionals Save Lives, and Make End-of-Life Higher Quality

- Nurses using interdisciplinary teamwork, evidence-based care research, arrange and managing hospital or home care... Nurse professionals advocate for patients from birth, to end-of-life.
- End-of-life care is an area ANA advocates for, such as the federal bill HR.647 Palliative Care and Hospice Education and training Act
  - Seeks to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care



# More ANA Priorities Safe Staffing



- From the literature and experience, there is a link between appropriate staffing levels and reduction of preventable complications and errors, adverse events, and even death.
- Appropriate staffing also protects against high levels of burnout and turnover among nurses. ANA is seeking to reintroduce legislation that empowers direct care nurses to create staffing plans considering not only the unique needs of their patients but includes varying experiences of nurses and other team members, unit characteristics such as skill mix and support personnel and workflow such as usual volume of admissions, discharges and transfers. Patients and nurses are more than numbers.



# Nationally and Locally Workplace Violence

- The *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act* (H.R. 1309) has been introduced. ANA supports this bill which requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to develop standards requiring health care and social service employers to write and implement a workplace violence prevention plan to prevent and protect employees from violent incidents in the workplace.
- As you now know, nurses are at high risk of abuse at work, and in America, health-care workers are five to 12 times more likely than other workers to experience violence at work; worldwide, nurses are more likely to be attacked at work than prison guards and police officers (The Conversation, 2017).

# Gun Violence

- Enact sensible legislation aimed at reducing gun violence.
- In the wake of multiple mass shootings that have taken place across the country, ANA encourages:
  - Background checks
  - No automatic weapons or bump stocks



# The Opioid Crisis

- Opioid Issue Brief <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/work-environment/health-safety/opioid-epidemic/>
- Use of Complementary & Integrative Health Practices to Minimize Opioid Use  
For example acupuncture
- Prevention strategies across State government and in collaboration with community partners are needed
- S.146 An act relating to substance misuse prevention that establishes a Substance Misuse Prevention Advisory Council
  - A Manager of Substance Misuse Prevention within the Department of Health to coordinate the work of the Substance Misuse Prevention Advisory Council, coordinating strategic regional plans; and serving as a liaison to the Director of Substance Misuse Prevention and to the Agency of Education would be helpful.
  - ANA supports the idea of a Vermont Prescription Monitoring System Advisory Council



# Health Care Reform and Transformation

- ANA advocates for greater access to quality, affordable care and encourage consideration of a candidates' perspective on health reform when heading to the polls. ANA monitors and responds to the many legislative efforts addressing health care delivery, such as the ACO Pilot Program.
- S.7 An act relating to social service integration with Vermont's health care system
  - ANA-Vermont approves of alleviating toxic stress, and balancing oversight with support for innovation

# Healthy Environment

- Funding for weatherization and electric vehicles
- Healthy water and food for children and adults
- No unhealthy chemicals or lead in water or toys
- Healthy choices for foods
- Less electronic cigarettes, liquid nicotine, and tobacco paraphernalia
- Support for
  - **S.55** An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances and hazardous materials
  - **S.49** - An act relating to the regulation of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking and surface waters



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