

INDIANA STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

ADOPTED AUGUST 3, 2007

One purpose of the Indiana State Nurses Association (ISNA) is to influence public policy consonant with the goals of the membership. ISNA members at the annual Meeting of the Members and the ISNA Board of Directors establish goals and policies. These goals and policies serve as the foundation for a variety of program activities, including ISNA's legislative efforts. ISNA prioritizes issues for action based on potential impact, availability of Association resources, and existence of coalition or alternative advocacy group efforts.

The headers under which ISNA's positions have been organized are the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics.

1. The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, work and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic state, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems. ISNA supports:

A health care system that is universal, affordable, comprehensive, accessible and provides high-quality health care.

That a person's advance directive choices be respected by all health care providers.

2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group or community. ISNA supports:

Direct access by consumers to services of registered nurses.

3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient. ISNA supports:

The use of the documents, position statements, and publications by professional nursing associations such as the American Nurses Association's Principles for Nurse Staffing, ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses, and Standards of Care in health care institutions and agencies.

Efforts to eliminate adult and child abuse.

Individual professional licensure, registration or certification for any type of health care personnel.

4. The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse's obligation to provide optimum patient care. ISNA supports:

The use of quality indicators such as the National Data-Base of Nursing Quality Indicators to evaluate nursing care

5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and

to continue personal and professional growth. ISNA supports:

Voluntary continuing nursing education for relicensure as a cooperative effort between individual nurses, schools of nursing, providers of continuing nursing education and employers of professional nurses.

That, while it is the ultimate responsibility of each nurse to maintain competence and professional growth, all organizations employing nurses are encouraged to budget sufficient resources (equal to a defined percentage of nursing payroll and benchmarked to other industry standards) to support ongoing acquisition and maintenance of knowledge and skills.

6. The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving health care environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action. ISNA supports:

Examination and analysis by nurses of their own work place grievance procedures and assignment policies and practices in terms of ethical, legal, regulatory, and economic considerations.

Nurse retention strategies to include factors such as practice autonomy, inclusion of staff nurses in decision-making, management's respect of nurses, recognizing nurses work load, shift length, and total number of hours worked per week.

Initiatives of health care providers and regulatory bodies that cultivate a culture of patient safety, including the use of technology, the unprejudicial investigation of latent systematic sources of errors, and staff education.

The use of adjustable nurse/patient ratios based on nurses' assessment of patients' acuity

The right of nurses to organize and bargain collectively-and enforcement of laws that protect the rights of nurses to be represented as a separate group of health care professionals.

7. The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration, and knowledge development. ISNA supports:

The promotion and funding for nursing research projects/programs that expand the scientific base of nursing practice and that maximize nursing contribution in the promotion of health and wellness.

Funding for accredited nursing programs that prepare adequate numbers of registered nurses to assure the delivery of and access to quality nursing care.

An ongoing and consistent method of data collection, analysis and projections about Indiana nurses.

Specialty certification as a means to enhance patient safety and improve patient care outcomes.

Environments that encourage certification because the facility benefits through increased nurse retention and job satisfaction.

8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs. ISNA supports:

Funding to support prevention, education, research, and access to care to address major health conditions.

The expansion of non-institutional health care services such as home and community-based nursing services.

Daily availability by students to registered nurses in primary and secondary schools.

The participation of registered nurses in emergency preparedness planning and response.

9. The profession of nursing, as represented by association and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy. ISNA supports:

That the federal, state, and local governments work to provide a stable source of funding to meet the public's health care needs, including recognition of and remuneration for services rendered by nurses.

Accredited baccalaureate nursing programs as the preferred educational preparation for a licensed registered nurse.

Active opposition to legislative or regulatory action that would reduce standards for nursing education in Indiana.

Active opposition to legislative or regulatory action that would restrict nursing practice.

Mechanisms which would recognize and expand nursing practice.

The Indiana State Board of Nursing as the approving body for basic nursing education programs.

Accreditation of all nursing school education programs by nursing discipline specific accrediting agencies.

The Indiana State Board of Nursing's responsibility to regulate the practice of nursing.

Opposition to prosecution of health care providers and facilities under the criminal neglect statute instead of through state licensing boards or state regulatory agencies

Legislative action to protect nurses who report unsafe, incompetent, or illegal practices from harassment or retaliation by employers, including, but not limited to, termination of employment.

The title "birth attendant" for non-nurse midwives and regulation by the Professional Licensing Agency and the Indiana State Medical Licensing Board.

Legislation that must cover accepted practices, training requirements, supervisory and referral issues and have clear methods for disciplining and removal from an approved list of birth attendants.

That the Indiana tobacco settlement monies should be used only for the improved health of the citizens of Indiana.

That elimination of significant waste and inefficiency must first occur before nursing salaries and/or positions are affected when cost containment initiatives are undertaken.

Direct third-party reimbursement for nurses to include advanced practice nurses and certified registered nurse anesthetists by all payers.

Competitive salaries for all nurses

Pay equity

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The following resolutions were adopted by the ISNA Meeting of the Members in September 2007:

HOURS WORKED BY NURSES

RESOLVED, That ISNA continue to emphasize that regardless of the number of hours worked, each registered nurse has an ethical responsibility to carefully consider his/her level of fatigue when deciding whether to accept any assignment extending beyond the regularly scheduled work day or week, including a mandatory or voluntary overtime assignment; and

That ISNA urge employers to recognize the registered nurse's right and obligation to refuse an assignment if impaired by fatigue; and

That ISNA urge employers to recognize their legal and ethical obligations to establishing safe staffing systems; and

That the Indiana State Nurses Association (ISNA) develop communications and other strategies to increase awareness of RNs, managers, employers, policy makers, and the public of the dangerous impact of fatigue on patient, nurse, and public safety.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

RESOLVED, That the Indiana State Nurses Association, using the American Nurses Association's 2005 Nursing's Agenda for Health Care Reform as a benchmark, continue to support legislative and policy efforts toward achieving universal access to safe, quality, affordable health care for all Hoosiers; and

That the ISNA members encourage the ISNA Board of Directors to develop strategies and partnerships that challenge health care legislators, policy makers, employers, and the public to place a higher priority on providing comprehensive health insurance coverage and access to safe, quality health care services for all Hoosiers at an affordable price; and

That ISNA, in pursuing these efforts, continue to strongly advocate for consumer access to a full range of health provider and health care services that include registered nurses as providers.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

RESOLVED, That the Indiana State Nurses Association support and communicate to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education the need for additional nursing practice doctoral programs in Indiana; and

That the Indiana State Nurses Association work collaboratively with nursing programs throughout the state to assure that Indiana nurses have reasonable access and opportunity to enroll in doctor of nursing practice programs; and

That ISNA, through collaboration with nursing entities, promote access to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program for advanced practice nurses, including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Clinical Nurse Specialists, as supported through the national specialty nursing organizations.

1/17/08