



**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING**  
*transforming health policy and practice through nursing knowledge*

**POLICY PRIORITIES**  
2019-2020

# POLICY PRIORITIES

In early 2019, the American Academy of Nursing's (Academy's) 24 Expert Panels, comprised of Academy Fellows in practice, research, and academia, assessed the nation's health policy landscape. Through an analysis of the recommendations published by the Academy over the last four years, these experts identified areas in which to focus the Academy's health policy work. All priorities and areas of the Academy's policy work are boundary spanning within and outside the organization, creating strong opportunities for partnerships to enact change.

*The Academy has a clear and distinct focus on social determinants of health and uses this lens to advance policies and solutions within each of the three overarching priorities.*

## ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY & CHAMPION WELLNESS

The Academy advances policies that closely consider the social determinants of health. Where individuals were born, live, work, attend school, or travel, all impact their wellness. Moreover, the need grows to reduce the impact of violence, toxic stress, and other environmental factors, on the individual, the family, and the community. The Academy believes to truly improve health, policies must expand access to quality care through novel approaches, aimed at eliminating health disparities. To safeguard our future, the Academy champions the wellness and safety of not only children and vulnerable populations, but of every individual in any location during all health stages.

Specific to advancing health equity and championing wellness, the Academy will work in partnerships to advance policy solutions addressing the following:

### CARE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Advanced Care Planning
- Military & Veterans Health
- Reproductive Health
- Maternal Mortality
- Paid Family Leave
- LGBTQ/Transgender Health Protections

### MENTAL HEALTH

- Toxic Stress
- Substance Use Disorder

### PUBLIC HEALTH

- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
- Migrant Health & Safety
- Human Trafficking
- Gun Violence
- Curbing Nicotine Use
- Climate Change & Environmental Toxins

## PROMOTE INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

The Academy advances policies that adopt modernizations which are sustainable and effective over time. This includes technologies, treatments, and models of care. Policies that recognize providers for their expertise, education, and clinical training amplify patient choice. Competition in the healthcare provider market increases access and reduces cost while improving quality. Moreover, innovation in the health care industry, as well as emerging practices, must be tested and advanced for heightened impact and outcomes. This includes necessary investments in research and scientific careers.

Specific to promoting innovation and sustainability, the Academy will work in partnerships to advance policy solutions addressing the following:

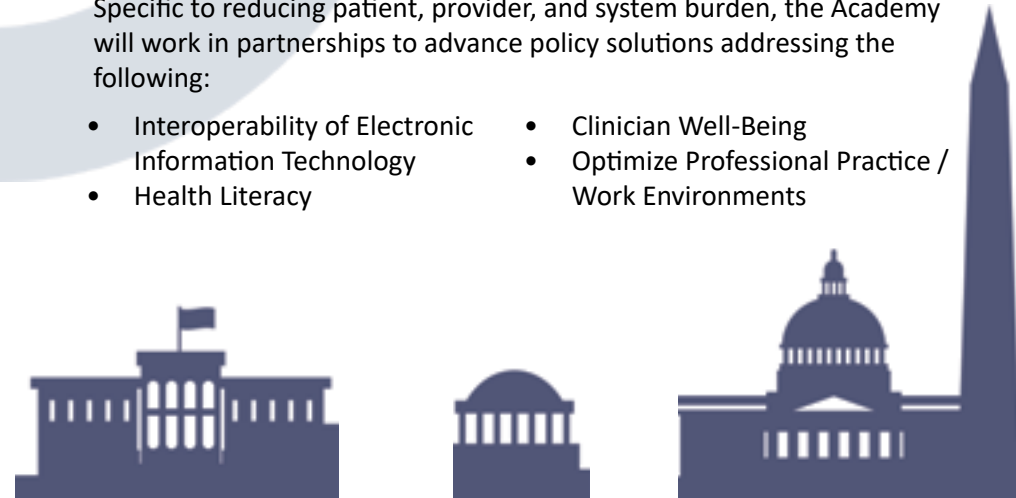
- Full Practice Authority
- Payment Reform
- Precision Health
- Telehealth
- Research Funding
- Big Data & Artificial Intelligence

## REDUCE PATIENT, PROVIDER, & SYSTEM BURDEN

The Academy advances policies that provide patients, providers, and systems, the ability to give and receive optimal care. This requires efforts to reduce regulatory burden on daily practice while balancing patient privacy protections. In order to achieve the goal of placing the patient at the center of care delivery, policies must equally support providers and systems.

Specific to reducing patient, provider, and system burden, the Academy will work in partnerships to advance policy solutions addressing the following:

- Interoperability of Electronic Information Technology
- Health Literacy
- Clinician Well-Being
- Optimize Professional Practice / Work Environments





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## ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Academy advances health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,800 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research who have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the promotion of health through evidence-based practices.

## MISSION

The Academy aims to serve the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy, practice and science through organizational excellence and effective nursing leadership.

1000 VERMONT AVE NW, SUITE 910, WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-777-1170 | [WWW.AANNET.ORG](http://WWW.AANNET.ORG) | [@AAN\\_NURSING](https://twitter.com/AAN_NURSING)