

2021-2022 MNA Government Relations Platform

Montana Nurses' Association (MNA) is the nonprofit professional association representing the voice of nearly 18,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) in Montana including more than 1000 licensed as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). MNA is the recognized professional organization, which lobbies for nursing practice issues to protect the practice of professional nurses and also protect the public in all areas of health care.

MNA is the recognized leader and advocate for the professional nurse in Montana.

MNA Mission Statement: The Montana Nurses Association promotes professional nursing practice, standards and education; represents professional nurses; and provides nursing leadership in promoting high quality health care.

1. Improve the quality of nursing practice by:
 - a. Providing educational and professional development opportunities that contribute to improving practice competency and quality of patient care.
 - b. Identifying and pursuing funding opportunities to assist in providing continuing nursing education and nursing continuing professional development.
 - c. Identifying and pursuing funding sources that support research/projects to develop evidence based and innovative nursing practice.
 - d. Promoting national certification of Registered Nurses.
 - e. Active representation on local, state and national advisory committees/boards.
 - f. Supporting the regulatory authority of and collaborating with the Montana Board of Nursing (BON) on nursing practice and regulatory issues.
 - g. Encouraging transparency and promoting communication from the Montana Board of Nursing regarding relationship with NCSBN (National Council of State Boards of Nursing) and votes/legislation/regulatory policy changes affecting regulation of registered nurses.
 - h. Providing input into the implementation and enforcement of NCSBN Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).
 - i. Opposing the NCSBN APRN Nurse Licensure Compact legislation.

2. Protect the economic and general welfare of nurses by:
 - a. Actively engaging in legislation and campaigns that positively contribute to the economic and general welfare of RNs.
 - b. Ensuring the right of RNs to engage in collective bargaining in Montana.
 - c. Opposing any "Right to Work" (anti-collective bargaining, anti-labor) legislation to uphold the "Blue Eyed Nurse" bill from 1967, authored by the late Mary Munger, RN, and former MNA member.
 - d. Addressing workplace environment issues including violence against healthcare workers, safe staffing, infectious disease, and patient safety.
 - e. Advocating for legislation prohibiting mandatory overtime.

3. Improve access to quality, cost effective health care by developing and/or supporting public policies which:
 - a. Identify the nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.
 - b. Respond to the needs of the unserved and underserved populations by promoting access to health care and healthcare coverage.
 - c. Identify or develop alternative health care delivery systems that are cost-effective and provide quality health care.
 - d. Mandate third party reimbursements directly to RNs from public and private payers.
 - e. Remove barriers (financial, governmental, regulatory, and/or institutional) that deny access to appropriate/qualified health care providers and approved medical standard of care treatments.
 - f. Advocate for legislation that is transparent and bipartisan and support policies that can achieve evidence based real healthcare reform.
 - g. Promote community and world health by collaborating with other health professionals to promote health diplomacy and reduce health disparities.

4. Protect human rights by developing and/or supporting public policies which:
 - a. Promote access to appropriate health services.
 - b. Preserve individual rights to privacy.
 - c. Promote, debate and have consideration of ethical dilemmas in health care
 - d. Protect nurses, healthcare employees, and the patient (MT community) from public health emergencies.

5. Protect the environmental health of individuals and communities through:
 - a. Acknowledging, supporting and addressing environmental impacts on the health of Montanans.
 - b. Actively engaging with national organizational affiliates in addressing environmental health issues in our nation.
 - c. Supporting and promoting the work, data, and evidence from our public health nurses.

6. Protecting and promoting the future of healthcare and nursing practice through:
 - a. Actively engaging in legislation that supports professional scope of nursing practice to the fullest extent of the nurses' education, professional development, and training.
 - b. Actively promoting programs and efforts that encourage professional development and educational progression of professional nursing practice at local, state, and national levels.
 - c. Representation on boards, committees and advisory groups which influence the future of the nursing profession and the future of our state and national healthcare system.
 - d. Engaging with healthcare partners and associations to work collaboratively to ensure healthcare as a right for all American populations.
 - e. Actively support science and evidence based data to drive strong investment in safe quality public health programs at state and national levels.