

MNA Resolution 2: Professional Nurses Oppose Right to Work

Professional Nurses Oppose to Right to Work (RTW) Legislation

Whereas The 1967 “Blue Eyed Nurses” bill championed by the late Mary Munger, RN, a public health nurse who valued the collective voice of professional nurses, helped secure professional nurses the right to choose to form a union to advocate for safe working conditions and high-quality patient care;

Whereas Montana Nurses Association’s (MNA) collective bargaining arm has created labor peace, collaboration, and communication between professional nurses and many healthcare employers across the state for decades making positive strides addressing patient care and safe working conditions;

Whereas MNA asks, *why the previous legislative attack and specificity on nurses when all state and federal laws are already being followed?* Further, RTW would not only affect nurses, but all workers actually undermining the ability of workers to organize and have a productive impact in negotiations for better wages, working conditions, and benefits;

Whereas MNA already follows the processes outlined in collective bargaining, is a good steward of business, and follows state and federal laws;

Whereas most Montanans agree working people should have the freedom to join together in strong unions if they choose to; and

Whereas any RTW legislation is unnecessary, and impedes the professional nurses’ right to negotiate with their employers collaboratively and professionally for quality public services, workplace safety, and safe, quality patient care; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, MNA will oppose any RTW legislation, moreover, collaborate with local, state, and national affiliates, and stakeholders who believe all workers have a right to fair wages, good working conditions, and good benefits; including professional nurses and their practice environments that support the nurses collective voice addressing staff and patient safety, high quality patient care, and wages/benefits;

Resolved, MNA is very aware the RTW fight is not over in Montana. and in coordination with Montana Unified and other stakeholders, MNA will prepare and expect RTW legislation to be introduced again in the 2023 Legislative session; and

Resolved, MNA will continue to educate, engage our nurses, and communicate utilizing best practices to defeat RTW for all nurses and all workers as RTW in MT would have a devastating effect on these nurses, workers, their families, and communities.