

July 10, 2023 Media Advisory related to MAR 24-159-93

MNA Pushes Back on Board of Nursing/DLI Proposed Continuing Education Repeals

On June 29th, 2023, the Montana Board of Nursing (BON) notified all licensed registered nurses and Advanced Practice Registered (APRNs) of proposed changes to **MAR 24-159-93**. These changes consider repealing continuing education requirements for all nurses. The Montana Nurses Association (MNA) strongly disagrees with these proposed changes, as we believe education and professional development are vital for maintaining the highest standards of patient care for Montana families.

All nurses have firsthand knowledge of the rapid advancements in healthcare and the need for ongoing learning to provide safe and effective care. Nurses are the key to our healthcare systems and critical to all patient care. It is crucial that nurses stay updated with best practices, cutting-edge treatments, and evolving technologies. Moreover, MNA fully supports the significance of continuing education in achieving positive patient outcomes.

MNA is concerned for our Montana communities and believes these proposed changes directly impact public safety. The Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) recognizes that continuing education is essential not only for nursing but also for physicians, radiology technicians, occupational therapists, nursing home administrators, respiratory care providers, pharmacists, social workers, cosmetologists/barbers, real estate agents/brokers, massage therapists and many other professions.

MNA firmly believes that continuing education ensures nurses maintain the necessary skills and knowledge to provide exceptional care, positively impacting the healthcare outcomes for patients in communities across our state. Montana families need to understand the negative consequences these changes could have on the health of Montanans. We are asking all nurses and the public to express their support for retaining current continuing education requirements for all nurses by providing comments to the Montana Board of Nursing.

Please follow this link: (<https://dli.cliogrow.com/intake/9eaf2f76707636ec204735403485bc51>) to tell the BON that you want to maintain highly educated nurses in our state.

Currently 42 of 50 states have continuing education requirements for nurses, that includes MT. We need to protect our patients and we need to protect our communities.

Your voice can make a lasting impact on the future of nursing education in Montana.

MNA is the recognized leader and advocate for the professional nurse in Montana, representing over 3,000 nurses. MNA promotes professional nursing practice, standards, and education; represents professional nurses; and provides nursing leadership in promoting high quality healthcare.

The mission of the **BON** is to protect the health, safety and well-being of Montana citizens through the licensing of competent nursing professionals and by the regulation of the practice to promote the delivery of quality health care.