

## Montana Nurses Association Government Relations Platform 2024-2025

The Montana Nurses Association (MNA) is a nonprofit professional association representing nearly 18,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) in Montana, including over 1,000 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). MNA is the recognized professional organization advocating for nursing practice issues to protect both professional nurses and the public in all areas of health care.

**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

- **Educational and Professional Development:** Provide opportunities to enhance practice competency and patient care quality.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Pursue funding for continuing nursing education and professional development.
- **Research Support:** Secure funding for research and projects to develop evidence-based and innovative nursing practices.
- **National Certification:** Promote national certification of Registered Nurses.
- **Representation:** Actively represent nurses on local, state, and national advisory committees/boards.
- **Regulatory Collaboration:** Support and collaborate with the Montana Board of Nursing (BON) on practice and regulatory issues.
- **Transparency and Communication:** Encourage transparency and communication from the BON regarding its relationship with the NCSBN and regulatory changes.
- **Nurse Licensure Compact:** Provide input on the implementation and enforcement of the NCSBN Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and oppose the NCSBN APRN Nurse Licensure Compact legislation.

### 2. Protect the Economic and General Welfare of Nurses

- **Legislative Engagement:** Engage in legislation and campaigns that benefit the economic and general welfare of RNs.
- **Collective Bargaining:** Ensure the right of RNs to engage in collective bargaining in Montana.
- **Oppose Anti-Labor Legislation:** Oppose “Right to Work” legislation to uphold the “Blue Eyed Nurse” bill.
- **Workplace Environment:** Address issues such as violence against healthcare workers, safe staffing, infectious disease, and patient safety.
- **Mandatory Overtime:** Advocate for legislation prohibiting mandatory overtime and addressing safe staffing standards and workplace violence prevention.

### 3. Improve Access to Quality, Cost-Effective Health Care

- **Patient Commitment:** Identify the nurse's primary commitment to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.
- **Access for Underserved Populations:** Promote access to health care and coverage for unserved and underserved populations.
- **Alternative Delivery Systems:** Develop cost-effective and quality alternative health care delivery systems.
- **Third-Party Reimbursements:** Mandate direct reimbursements to RNs from public and private payers.
- **Remove Barriers:** Eliminate barriers that deny access to qualified health care providers and approved treatments.
- **Transparent Legislation:** Advocate for transparent, bipartisan legislation to achieve evidence-based healthcare reform.
- **Health Diplomacy:** Collaborate with other health professionals to promote community and world health and reduce health disparities.

### 4. Protect Human Rights

- **Access to Health Services:** Promote access to appropriate health services.
- **Privacy Rights:** Preserve individual rights to privacy.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Promote debate and consideration of ethical dilemmas in health care.
- **Public Health Emergencies:** Protect nurses, healthcare employees, and the public from health emergencies.

### 5. Protect Environmental Health

- **Environmental Impact:** Address environmental impacts on the health of Montanans.
- **National Engagement:** Engage with national affiliates on environmental health issues.
- **Support Evidence-Based Science:** Promote the work and data from professional nurses, public health nurses, APRNs, epidemiologists, physicians, infectious disease experts, and researchers.

### 6. Promote the Future of Healthcare and Nursing Practice

- **Scope of Practice:** Support legislation that allows nurses to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training.
- **Professional Development:** Promote programs encouraging professional development and educational progression.
- **Representation:** Ensure representation on boards, committees, and advisory groups influencing the future of nursing and healthcare.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Work with healthcare partners to ensure healthcare as a right for all.
- **Public Health Investment:** Support science and evidence-based data to drive investment in public health programs.

- **Clinical Nursing Knowledge:** Advance clinical nursing knowledge to improve healthcare and human health status.

## 7. Represent the Interests of All Registered Nurses

- **High Standards:** Foster high standards of nursing practice.
- **Workplace Rights:** Promote the rights of nurses in the workplace.
- **Positive Image:** Project a positive and realistic view of nurses and professional nursing practice.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** Lobby Congress, state legislature, and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses, patients, and the public.
- **Workforce Data:** Advocate for the collection, analysis, and publication of workforce data related to professional nurses.