

Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders 2022-2023 Legislative Platform

Nurse Staffing Legislation

Position: IONL's position aligns with the Illinois Hospital Association and the American Nurses Association-IL (ANA-IL) in strongly opposing mandated nurse-to-patient staffing ratios. These are one-size-fits-all approaches that discount existing patient needs and nurse experience. IONL supports the implementation of Public Act 102-0641 (Nurse Staffing Improvement Act) and believes it should have an opportunity to be implemented and operationalized before further discussions on this issue occur.

Nurse Licensure Compact

Position: IONL strongly supports legislation adding Illinois to the Nurse Licensure Compact (HB0580 & SB2068). The Nurse Licensure Compact allows for nurses to practice in multiple states with one license and is a key strategy to address nursing workforce shortages within Illinois.

Nursing Workforce Development Programs and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act

Position: IONL strongly supports the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (HR728 & S1399) and encourages IL legislators to support similar programs at the state level. Workforce development programs bolster nursing education at all levels, strengthen nursing education, and fund institutions educating nurses to practice in rural and medically-underserved communities.

Nursing Research and Data

Position: IONL strongly supports federal and state investment in nursing research funding as well as the use of data to improve the outcomes and efficiency of healthcare. IONL believes that nurses must not only be involved in the design and implementation of data solutions, but must lead the development of these solutions across all sectors of the healthcare system.

Promoting the Value of Nursing

Position: In the redesign of the health care delivery system towards one driven by a team of health care providers in a patient-centered environment, it is important nurse leaders articulate the value of nursing. Data-driven research should be used to improve patient outcomes, care coordination, quality, safety and the delivery of cost-effective care. Nurse leaders should use data to describe the impact of nursing when collaborating with other health care providers to redesign health care delivery system. IONL advocates the use of AONL's leadership competencies across all health care settings for the advancement of nurses to the executive level.

Home Health Planning Improvement Act

Position: Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and physician assistants (PA) are recognized as authorized Medicare providers and are able to certify patient eligibility for nursing home care; however, current law precludes these same practitioners from certifying patient eligibility for home health care services. As a result, APRNs and PAs are required to find a physician to certify eligibility. This unnecessary barrier can result in an extended hospital stay or nursing home admission because the patient could not return or remain at home without home health care services. IONL strongly supports the passage of the *Home Health Planning Improvement Act* (HR2150 & S296) and all similar legislation.

Workplace Violence and Safety

Position: IONL supports legislation at the state and federal level that seeks to prevent workplace violence and improve the safety environment within all healthcare settings. IONL supported the *Illinois Health Care Violence Prevention Act* in 2019 and supports the passage of the federal *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act* (HR1195).