

The nurse leaders of the Michigan Nurses Association, the largest labor and professional organization representing registered nurses in Michigan, direct the organization's public policy agenda.

MNA is a nonpartisan organization. We strive to work with all lawmakers, regardless of party, to advance public policy that supports nurses, patients and all workers. We take our responsibility to be the voice of ALL registered nurses very seriously.

As an overriding legislative principle, "MNA is committed to protecting the unique role of registered nurses; increasing access and quality of health care; promoting the health and safety of our patients and communities; fostering the health of our air, water and land; and building a just, equal society for all."

The MNA Board of Directors, on recommendations from the Council on Legislation and Public Policy, has set the top state legislative priorities for the 2017-2018 session:

- **Ensure safe patient care** (standard RN-patient ratios and limits on mandated overtime)
- **Make workplaces safer for nurses**
- **Protect collective bargaining rights**

Ensure safe patient care

MNA is the only Michigan organization working to address many RNs' top concern: being forced to take care of too many patients and work longer hours than are safe. There is no law limiting the number of patients a nurse can be assigned and no law limiting the hours a nurse can be ordered to work. Understaffing and overworking RNs can put patients at serious risk. MNA supports the Safe Patient Care Act, which will protect patients by establishing safe RN-to-patient ratios in all hospitals at all times, limiting forced RN overtime, and requiring hospitals to tell the public their nurse staffing levels. The Safe Patient Care Act consists of House Bills 4629-4631 and Senate Bills 387-389. Learn more and get involved at www.MISaferHospitals.org.

Make workplaces safer for nurses

Nursing is often a physically demanding and dangerous profession. Nurses have a high rate of back and other injuries from lifting and other tasks. Nurses also face verbal and physical assaults from patients and family members, a rising problem that calls for preventative solutions. Nurses, patients and employers all suffer when a high rate of preventable injuries causes RNs to miss work or leave the profession. Michigan needs better laws to protect nurses.

Protect collective bargaining rights

Nurses are the healthcare professionals who spend the most time providing direct care and serve as a patient's first line of defense. That's why health care works best when nurses have a strong voice in patient care. Collective bargaining is the best tool RNs have to effectively advocate for their patients. Nurses under a collective bargaining agreement have the potential to negotiate workplace conditions, such as staffing levels. Those nurses are also better protected if they object to unsafe situations or advocate for changes to improve patient care. It's vital to protect nurses' right to organize and exercise their full rights.

For information on legislation or how to become more active as an advocate, contact Dawn Kettinger, MNA Director of Government Affairs, at dawn.kettinger@minurses.org or 517-853-5519.



How does **MNA** decide whether to support a bill?



MNA's Council on Legislation and Public Policy, made up of member nurses, carefully evaluates pending legislation. The CLPP makes recommendations to the full MNA Board of Directors, which then votes on MNA's position.

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What is the **MNA-PAC**?

Did you know that the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, which opposes safe staffing ratios, spends more than \$500,000 a year to influence legislators? It's important for nurses to pool their resources to counter that. Our best tool is the MNA Political Action Committee (PAC).

The nurses on the MNA PAC Board evaluate candidates for office carefully and make recommendations to the Board on which are worthy of MNA's endorsement and financial support. These decisions are based on candidates' support for issues that affect nurses and patients – not political party.

Not one dime of your member dues goes to the PAC fund. **The PAC operates SOLELY on voluntary donations from members. Even \$5 a month can make a difference in building nurse power.**

Sign up at www.minursespac.org.

MNA PAC BOARD

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MNA PAC Board members discuss supporting pro-nurse legislators.

MI **NURSES** Association

Visit www.minurses.org to

RNs say pass the **Safe Patient Care Act**

- Find out who your legislators are
- Learn MNA's positions on pending legislation
- Sign up for our e-newsletter

Every **patient**.
Every **shift**.

To share your story about short staffing
or email your legislator, visit:
www.MISaferHospitals.org