

2019 Legislative Priorities

WSNA is the leading voice and advocate for the professional interests of more than 100,000 registered nurses who live and work in Washington state.

BUDGET PRIORITIES



School nurse funding

Improve the health and safety of K-12 students across Washington by increasing state support for the Prototypical School Funding Model to place more nurses in Class One school districts and for the School Nurse Corps which funds nurses in Class Two school districts.



Nursing education funding

Increase funding for nursing faculty salaries to recruit and retain well-qualified educators. Provide scholarship and loan repayment funding that allows financial stability while giving underserved communities additional providers. Increase training opportunities for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) around the state to ensure victims receive the care they deserve.



Foundational public health services

Protect the health and safety of our communities by ensuring that standards for communicable disease prevention and environmental health are met across the state.

POLICY PRIORITIES



Meal and rest breaks bill

Protect patients by ensuring nurses receive uninterrupted meal and rest breaks, so that they can provide the highest quality patient care.



Prevent workplace violence

Protect frontline health care providers, such as nurses, by establishing annual workplace violence prevention planning and training. Ensure that this training includes how to report an incident and what response providers can expect when an incident does occur.



Surprise medical billing

Safeguard patients and their families against surprise medical bills when treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network facility under emergency or surgical circumstances.



Access to mental health services

Support patient access to mental/behavioral health treatment from community providers such as psychiatric nurse practitioners. The current practice of inappropriately boarding mental/behavioral health patients in hospitals often leads to workplace violence experienced by nurses and other providers.