

# Protecting Patients & Our Communities

Nurses work every day to protect patients, and to champion issues that improve health and keep our communities safe. WSNA's 2017 legislative priorities reflect those values. We look forward to working with you on these important issues.

## WSNA BUDGET PRIORITIES

### Health Profession Loan Repayment

**\$9 million** - Address Washington's nursing shortage by supporting an additional \$9 million to the health profession loan repayment and scholarship program. This funding will increase providers in underserved areas by providing educational loan repayment for providers working in rural communities and with underserved populations.

### Public Health Funding

**\$60 million** - Public Health is essential. Yet, complex threats and recession budget cuts have made it harder for the public health system to protect and serve Washington's families and communities.

It's time to rebuild public health's ability to track, respond to and prevent contamination and disease outbreaks through a new \$60 million investment to fill critical gaps in core services and modernize our state's public health system.

#### ✓ HB 1432 / SB 5353 – Support

These policy bills adopt the national Foundational Public Health Services framework – defining core public health services that must be available to every resident in Washington. The bill requires a plan for implementing Shared Services – to more efficiently and effectively deliver core public health services by allowing smaller jurisdictions to contract with larger jurisdictions for certain services, such as epidemiology.



*I am YOUR constituent.*

Name

Email / Phone

Address

Message



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## WSNA POLICY PRIORITIES

### **Nurse Staffing & Rest Breaks**

Assure sufficient nurse staffing to meet patient care needs through staffing ratios and hospital accountability.

✓ **HB 1714 - Support**

Require hospitals to give nurses the uninterrupted breaks needed to ensure quality patient care.

✓ **HB 1715 - Support**

### **School Nurse Supervision**

Give school nurses authority to do what's best for the kids in their care. Clarifies supervisory role of non-clinical school administrators, stating that school administrators may not interfere with nursing care provided by an RN working in a school setting – but may supervise an RN in all other aspects of employment.

✓ **HB 1346 / SB 5325 - Support**

### **Balanced Billing (Medical Debt)**

Ensure that consumers receiving care at an in-network facility are charged the in-network rate for out-of-network providers working in that facility.

✓ **HB 1117 - Support**

### **Address the Opioid Crisis**

Support a statewide secure medicine return program and other efforts to address the opioid crisis, such as enhancements to the prescription drug monitoring program.

#### **SECURE MEDICINE RETURN**

Secure medicine return, or take-back, programs are an important public health and safety strategy to rid homes of unused or unwanted medicines – reducing misuse and abuse of medicines.

✓ **HB 1047 - Support**

#### **PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS**

This bill expanded access to data from the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, allowing health care facilities to receive provider prescribing information. This will allow hospitals and other health care facilities to get a better sense of prescribing habits of their providers, and will allow them to work with providers as needed.

✓ **HB 1426 - Support**