

# Missouri Nurses Association

## 2008 Public Policy Platform

### 2008-2010 Biennium

The Missouri Nurses Association (MONA) influences public policy in a manner consistent with our members' beliefs. This platform identifies MONA's goals and positions on pertinent issues and provides direction for public policy initiatives and political action.

#### **ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE**

*Goal: Assure availability of health care services and quality nursing care for all Missourians.*

MONA Supports:

- Quality, affordable, accessible, and equitable health care;
- Provision of a core of basic health services;
- Consumer access to nursing services;
- Safe, quality, health care for vulnerable populations, including victims of domestic violence, pregnant women, children, individuals with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, and the disabled;
- Primary health care provided by advanced practice nurses;
- Maternity, neonatal and well-women care provided by Certified Nurse Midwives (advanced practice nurses certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives);
- Registered nurses as coordinators of patient care in emergency departments and supervisors of emergency care provided by non-registered nurses;
- Strong, visible public health nursing leadership in the Missouri Department of Health.

MONA Opposes:

- Lay midwifery practice and licensure;
- The introduction, by other professions, of health care personnel who perform nursing functions.

#### **ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Goal: Assure individuals have the right to make decisions which affect themselves and their significant others.*

*Assure the basic right of all people to equality and dignity under the law regardless of age, color, creed, disability, gender, health status, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation.*

MONA Supports:

- Consumer participation in health care decision making;
- Health care surrogate and Durable Power of Attorney for health care decisions when an individual is incapacitated;
- The rights of guardians to make health care treatment decisions and consent or refuse health care treatment for their wards.

MONA Opposes:

- All forms of participation by nurses in capital punishment by whatever means, whether under civil or military legal authority.

#### **HEALTH CARE FINANCING**

*Goal: Assure federal, state, and local governments work to provide a stable source of funding to meet the public's health care needs, including remuneration for services provided by registered nurses.*

MONA Supports:

- Federally-mandated reimbursement for advanced practice nurses;
- Administrative reforms to reduce health care costs;
- Support progressive steps toward comprehensive reform to assure access to care for all.

#### **NURSING EDUCATION, PRACTICE AND LICENSURE**

*Goal: Assure the delivery of quality nursing care by appropriately educated and licensed nurses in order to protect the patient and the integrity of the nursing profession.*

#### MONA Supports:

- Individual professional licensure;
- Accountability of registered nurses for nursing practice and all personnel who provide nursing care;
- Preservation and protection of the practice of registered nursing in all practice settings;
- Protection of registered nurses' rights to practice within the full scope of their education and licensure;
- All registered nurses in all workplaces identifying themselves to all persons as registered nurses;
- The use by all registered nurses of the title RN in any written communication in the workplace;
- Delegation of nursing and non-nursing tasks which considers the patient's needs, the education of the assistive staff, the extent of supervision required, staff workload, and protection of the public;
- Cooperation with other organizations and professions to promote the practice and roles of advanced practice nurses;
- Enhancement of educational mobility;
- The nursing student loan program;
- The development of a centralized national database on nursing licensure and discipline while safeguarding the access and security of the information that will be collected;
- The inclusion and empowerment of foreign educated nurses practicing in the state in activities of the Association;
- Safe staffing to ensure safe & quality patient care;
- The ability of APN's to prescribe controlled substances to improve patient care outcomes.

#### MONA Opposes:

- Institutional licensure;
- The substitution of registered nurses with lesser qualified patient care personnel;
- Recruitment of foreign educated nurses in the absence of meaningful workplace reform;
- The easing of restrictions of immigration policies for purposes of recruitment of foreign educated nurses;
- The adoption of an Interstate Compact for Mutual Recognition of nurse licenses;
- The use of mandatory overtime as a means for addressing chronic understaffing;
- Requiring APN's to have a separate licensure process in lieu of recognition process.

### **NURSES' ECONOMIC AND GENERAL WELFARE**

*Goal: Promote and protect nurses' economic and general welfare*

#### MONA Supports:

- The rights of nurses to organize and bargain collectively;
- Protection of nurses from arbitrary and discriminatory actions by employers;
- Providing nurses with a means of communication and collective action regarding conditions of employment; The negotiation and enforcement of contracts or agreements governing rates of compensation, hours and other conditions of employment so quality nursing services are available to the public;
- The need for a Peer Assistance Program.

### **HEALTH HAZARDS**

*Goal: Assure the development and enforcement of standards that protect the environment, the workplace and the public's health.*

#### MONA Supports:

- Personnel policies which address all aspects of HIV in the workplace, protect against social and economic discrimination, reflect the most current scientific and epidemiological knowledge, and incorporate sound principles of supervision and management;
- Utilization of standard precautions and infection control procedures in all health care settings;
- A confidential post-exposure program to assure employees receive accurate information, guidance, reassurance, and supportive care in accordance with OSHA standards;
- Clean indoor air legislation;
- Emergency and disaster preparedness.

#### MONA Opposes:

- Legalization of concealed weapons.

*Approved by Government Affairs Committee 11/27/01*

*Approved by MONA Board of Directors 12/07/01*