

NATIONAL POLICY PLATFORM

Background

This is an unparalleled time for nurses and the nursing profession. The role of nurses is becoming more essential than ever in health care delivery. At the same time, there are not enough of us to meet the growing demand. The problem will become worse as more nurses enter retirement and more Americans gain access to health care through reform.

While there are many factors contributing to the nursing shortage, unfavorable workplace conditions are prompting nurses to leave the profession, and are hindering new nurses from starting. To combat this, we need a strong, collaborative effort to make sure that nurse voices are heard, and policies are in place that protect nurses on the job and improve patient care.

National Federation of Nurses is leading that charge.

Based on significant input from our membership about what issues matter most, we have developed our national policy agenda. It's a roadmap for creating safe and equitable workplaces for our nurse membership and nurses everywhere. Our ultimate goal is to create a **strong, educated and stable nursing workforce and, thereby, improve health care delivery in the United States.**

National Policy Platform

We are focusing on four critical areas (*see visual on reverse side for more detail*):

- **Safe Staffing**
- **Reducing Violence Against Nurses**
- **Health Care Reform**
- **Retirement Benefits**

Advocacy for the role of nurses in health care delivery and in the development of policies that affect the workplace and patient care is central to all of our work.

We will play a leading role on developing national policy around Safe Staffing and Reducing Violence Against Nurses, and support our member associations in the areas of Health Care Reform and Retirement Benefits.

You are integral to this effort. Visit www.nfn.org to access advocacy resources from our Labor Academy and [share your stories](#) about these issues. Stay up-to-date on what's happening through the [NFN e-newsletter](#) and join the movement and conversation on [Facebook](#).

POLICY PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES

Staffing

Develop an optimal patient care model that includes:

- Assuring safe nurse-to-patient ratio
- Staffing committees that determine staffing plans
- Enforcement of staffing laws
- Disclosure

Workplace Safety

- Prohibiting mandatory overtime
- Capping required total hours worked in a given time period
- Required meal/rest breaks
- Reducing violence against nurses
- Safe patient handling
- Reducing horizontal and vertical violence

Health Care Reform

- Advocating for the role of nurses in the development of health policy and delivery system reform
- Ensuring funding to support undergraduate and graduate nursing education
- Promoting the role of RNs across the interdisciplinary health care delivery system
- Ensuring that RNs are included in selections, development and testing of electronic medical records

Retirement Benefits

- Pensions
- Retiree health coverage

Advocacy and union representation

(Employee Free Choice Act; Unionize unorganized nurses; Promote role of nurses)

Direct advocacy
Public education

Direct advocacy
Public education

Support

Support

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF NURSES ROLE