**Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses**

**Policy Agenda**

**Priority Goals, 2015-2016**

**Strengthen patient-centered, high quality, cost-effective and equitable healthcare delivery through inter-professional collaboration**

Support policies that enable nurses to be full partners with other health professionals in redesigning health care.

Promote the inclusion of nurses on policymaking boards, executive management teams, and other key leadership positions.

Advocate for reimbursement policies focused on services rather than on the provider of services.

Support legislation and policies that facilitate the implementation of best practices and/or evidence-based practice.

**Enhance access to health care**

Increase the awareness of health disparities and their impact on vulnerable populations.

Advocate for health care that is timely, effective, safe, patient-centered, efficient, and equitable.

Support policies that enable all nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

Support legislation that enables full practice authority for advanced practice registered nurses.

Support initiatives designed to assure an adequate supply of nurses.

Support initiatives that employ a registered nurse in every school to serve students and their healthcare needs.

Support access to services in mental health and addiction recovery that rely on community-based, long-term support.

Advocate for adequate reimbursement for services provided by practitioners in all care settings and sites of care.

Increase access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance consistent with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requirements for health insurance exchanges.

**Advance public health and safety**

Advocate for policies and practices that promote civility, safety, and healthy work environments for healthcare providers across all settings.

Monitor legislation and regulations that promote public safety in the licensure and regulatory processes for each health profession.

Monitor legislation regarding the utilization of unlicensed personnel and provide guidance as indicated.

Encourage nurses’ involvement in professional and civic activities with a focus on public health and safety.

Advocate for all Virginians to live in safe, healthy communities with food and shelter security.

Support funding for wellness promotion and disease prevention programs and immunizations.

Support child safety issues, including those related to consumer products, vehicle safety, and firearms.

Support adequate funding for Virginia’s poison control centers.

Support disaster preparation and mitigation programs and activities.

Support highway safety, including legislation for primary seat belt use and open-container restrictions; promote continued use of motorcycle helmets and efforts to reduce distracted driving.

**Encourage lifelong learning to assure a competent nursing workforce**

Support policies that foster the education progression of RNs to BSN. The goal is to achieve 80% BSN-prepared nursing workforce by 2020.

Support policies that promote seamless educational progression for nurses throughout their professional careers.

Support policies that embrace lifelong learning and national professional certification

**Nurses leading change to advance health and broaden influence as healthcare leaders**