



ANA-PAC 2008 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Campaign Address:

Campaign Website:

Campaign Contact:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Health Care Policy Contact:

Phone Number:

E-mail:



Please attach a brief biography and any relevant campaign material. For each question, please share your positions as well as your accomplishments.

1. The American Nurses Association holds a fundamental belief that health care is a basic human right and supports restructuring health care in order to provide access to affordable essential health care services to all residents of the United States, regardless of pre-existing conditions. ANA further believes that health care services should be reorganized to concentrate on community-based primary care and preventive care while also focusing on better control of rising health care costs. How do you plan to address the issue of providing adequate health care coverage for the uninsured and underinsured?
 - a) Describe what benefits and services you believe should be included in basic health care coverage.
 - b) Describe the mechanism you believe would best finance such coverage.
 - c) What is your position on coverage of mental health services?

2. What policy initiatives would you propose to ensure that Americans receive safe, cost-effective, comprehensive, quality comprehensive health care services?
 - a) What is your position on legislation or regulations that would require health care facilities to develop and implement systems that ensure appropriate and safe registered nurse staffing levels?



3. How would you seek to address the severe nursing shortage facing this country?

a) What is your position on measures that address working conditions for registered nurses and the safety of their patients, such as legislation prohibiting the use of mandatory overtime as a staffing tool, and “whistleblower protections” that would support nurses’ right to speak without reprisal about activities, practices, or conditions that threaten the health and safety of their patients or the environment?

b) What measures would you support to encourage more people to enter and stay in the field of nursing? What level of federal funding would you provide for Title VIII programs and the Nurse Reinvestment Act to ensure sufficient numbers of qualified nurses are available to provide a full range of nursing services in all geographic areas?

4. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) play a crucial role in providing health care services in our nation’s most underserved areas. These nurses typically hold degrees at the highest levels of education and receive advanced training in specialty areas of practice (i.e. Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Clinical Nurse Specialists, among others). Despite the resolution of many practice and reimbursement issues, APRNs still experience discrimination and barriers to practice in our health care system. What is your position on the full utilization of APRNs?

a) Given that APRNs typically serve underserved communities, what is your position regarding APRNs as primary care providers in community settings?

5. On-the-job injuries caused by the strain of lifting and repositioning patients cause 12% of nurses to leave the profession annually. The average nurse working an 8 hour shift is currently required to lift 1.8 tons. If elected, how would you require health care facilities to invest in safe patient lifting technology to reduce the risk of workplace injuries to nurses?



6. The Centers for Disease Control has confirmed the presence of hundreds of potentially harmful chemicals in the blood, urine, and breast milk of the U.S. population. Even more, toxic chemicals have also been detected in umbilical cord blood, indicating the ability of these chemicals to cross the placenta and reach the fetus. The incidence of diseases thought to have an environmental component are on the rise: Asthma prevalence has doubled in ten years; autism has increased more than tenfold; 1 in 6 children are born with a developmental disability; and a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer is now 1 in 7. What is your plan to create a healthy environment in order to reduce the rates of environmental causes of illness?

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