

2009 KSNA Legislative Platform

As the largest group of health care professionals in any health care unit, nurses have a vital interest in enlightened legislation. The Kansas State Nurses Association provides leadership for the nursing profession and promotes quality health care for consumers through education, advocacy, and influencing health care policy. As the professional association for registered nurses, KSNA supports:

Nursing Practice

- Representation by KSNA, or their designees, on all interdisciplinary bodies concerned with planning, implementing and evaluating health care services.
- Recognition of the Kansas State Board of Nursing as the sole regulatory authority for professional nursing practice and adequate funding for the agency
- Ensuring the composition of the Kansas State Board of Nursing includes members whose professional qualifications relate to the functional responsibility of the state regulatory agency for nursing practice and nursing education.
- Promoting the role and protecting the practice of registered nurses
- Efforts aimed at addressing the nursing shortage including expanding state funding to educate more registered nurses and encourage recruitment and retention in nursing by employers.
- Funding for:
 - Nursing research to maximize nursing's contribution to health; Nursing education programs and for nursing faculty salaries; Advanced education for nurses.

Workplace Advocacy

- The right of nurses to bargain collectively on employment matters affecting them as employees and as professional practitioners.
- Maintenance of laws germane to the practice of nursing including prescriptive privileges of advanced practice nurses.
- RN staffing standards that ensure quality patient care.
- Enactment of legislation that protects the economic and employment rights of nurses, including their right to advocate for patients.
- Policy initiatives aimed at violence prevention.

Consumer Advocacy

- Efforts to develop evidence-based health policy to ensure equal access to health care services and safe competent nursing care for individuals in the state of Kansas.
- Establishing, implementing and maintaining safeguards for the rights of all citizens, especially children, senior citizens, handicapped and the economically and socially disadvantaged.
- Efforts aimed at health promotion, early intervention, treatment and referral.
- The ability of individuals to select an appropriate health care provider of their choice
- Efforts aimed at eliminating substance abuse including tobacco and alcohol.

Occupational and Environmental Health

- Resources to increase the capacity of nurses to prepare and respond to disasters.
- Legislation and regulation that assures workplace safety and promotes environmental health.
- Research and education for the prevention and treatment of occupational and environmental health policy initiative and funding.

Financing Health Care

- Funding to provide health care, mental health services, food and shelter to persons in need
- Recognition of nursing's unique role in the delivery of comprehensive and cost-effective quality care.
- Ensuring funding for state health plans, public health and public health nursing services.
- An affordable health care system that is monitored to insure that quality of care, quality of life and patient safety are not compromised.
- Use of evidence-based cost containment incentives in the health care delivery system that do not compromise quality of care and that:
 - Apply to all providers, payers and vendors, Are based on continued review of the appropriateness of health care services, Serve to eliminate significant waste and inefficiency.