



2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

IOWA NURSES ASSOCIATION 2019 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Accessing mental health services and supports that include:

- Offering a full array of affordable, accessible treatment options, including recovery-oriented systems for prevention, early intervention and treatment.
- Increasing the number of mental health treatment beds across the state.
- Increasing nurse providers through loan repayment and educational funding.
- Supporting reimbursement parity for mental health treatment.

2. Responding to the opioid substance use disorder crisis by:

- Funding for treatment and education/prevention measures.
- Expanding access to naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal drug with Good Samaritan protections.
- Increasing effective provider use of prescription drug monitoring programs with across state border collaboration.
- Expanding drug take back and needle safety programs.
- Creating pretrial diversion options, including drug courts that assist those with substance abuse issues to obtain treatment in lieu of incarceration.

3. Support efforts to strengthen the nursing workforce by:

- Recognizing and addressing the impending nursing shortage.
- Increasing nursing workforce funding and loan repayment.
- Increasing the number of nursing faculty through loan repayment and educational funding.
- Increasing the number of nurses with higher education as recommended by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Future of Nursing report.
- Maintaining full practice authority for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners.

4. Support efforts to ensure quality healthcare services to Medicaid recipients:

- Support oversight of Medicaid contractors to insure quality healthcare for this vulnerable population.
- Advocate for mutually collaborative relationships between Medicaid contractors and service providers that includes responsiveness to patient needs, flexible services and fair reimbursement practices.



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MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Iowa Nurses Association is to connect, support and advocate for nurses and healthcare in Iowa.

The Iowa Nurses Association is a constituent member of the American Nurses Association.