



FROM THE MONA PRESIDENT

Dr. Cindi Aurentz, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE

As the newly elected President of the Missouri Nurses Association (MONA), I am honored and delighted to extend a warm greeting to you. As we embark on this journey together, I want to express my deep appreciation for the incredible work that each of you contributes to the healthcare landscape of Missouri.

The Missouri Nurses Association is a platform for collaboration, education, and advocacy. Together, we can foster a supportive environment for professional growth, exchange valuable insights, and collectively address the challenges that our profession may encounter. I encourage you to actively engage with our association, participate in events, and contribute your unique perspectives.

Nursing is the nation's largest healthcare profession and collectively, we make a difference! This is not a perfunctory statement; as you read this, we are watching the issues and concerns important to nurses play out in legislative sessions. The voice of Nurses is respected, valued, and sought after.

Thank you for being an essential part of MONA. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to achieving great milestones together. If you have something you want to share, publish, teach, or talk about, please reach out. I would be delighted to hear from you!

Wishing you a fulfilling and rewarding experience with the Missouri Nurses Association! 🌟



FROM THE MONA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jill Kliethermes, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

The Missouri Legislature convened on January 3rd for the start of the 2nd Regular Session of the 102nd General Assembly. A total of 787 legislative proposals were prefiled, breaking the previous prefilings record of 776, which was set in 2020. This heightened level of legislative activity sets the stage for robust discussions and potential policy changes in the coming months.

I want to encourage nurses to engage in legislative advocacy by participating in the development and promotion of policies that impact healthcare and nursing practice. This includes working with legislators, joining the Missouri Nurses Association Advocacy Committee, and supporting or opposing specific bills. There are many opportunities to get involved in advocacy efforts to support our nursing profession.

Nursing advocacy is an integral part of the profession, and it extends beyond the clinical setting. It involves a commitment to promoting

health, well-being, and social justice at individual, community, and systemic levels. By being advocates, nurses contribute to positive changes in healthcare policies, practices, and outcomes. Let's make a difference together!

MONA has partnered with other associations to have a grassroots presence at the Capitol every week during session. MONA will alternate weeks with the Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners (AMNP), Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MOANA) and MOAPRNFEPA group to advocate for our legislative priorities. Through a united front, our hope is to put constituent faces on these issues while educating legislators about their importance.

Remember, effective nursing legislative advocacy requires ongoing commitment and collaboration. By actively participating in the legislative process, you contribute to shaping policies that positively impact nursing practice and healthcare as a whole. 🌟