

# FNA Legislative Report: 2025 Session

During the 2025 Florida Legislative Session, the Florida Nurses Association (FNA) focused its advocacy on two major priorities: the Protection from Surgical Smoke Bill and the 2025 Education Bill, both addressing critical issues of workplace safety and nursing education quality.

The **Protection from Surgical Smoke Bill** sought to require surgical smoke evacuation systems in Florida's operating rooms, protecting healthcare professionals and patients from harmful plume exposure. FNA led a strong grassroots campaign in collaboration with the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and gained formal backing from AORN's national office. Efforts included lawmaker education, testimony, and public outreach through hospitals and media. Despite widespread advocacy, the bill was defeated due to opposition from the Florida Hospital Association, which cited rural hospital cost concerns. FNA expressed deep disappointment, emphasizing that affordable solutions exist and pledging to reintroduce the bill in future sessions.

The **2025 Education Bill** aimed to restore oversight authority to the Florida Board of Nursing, ensuring approval and monitoring of nursing

schools, enforcing rigorous standards, and protecting students and patients from the risks of poorly performing programs. With Florida continuing to post the lowest NCLEX pass rate in the nation, FNA argued that strong oversight is essential. The bill passed with bipartisan support in the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor over concerns about regulation and institutional autonomy. FNA warned that lack of oversight jeopardizes both nursing graduates and public safety and will continue building coalitions to advance this issue in 2026.

While the 2025 session brought both setbacks and progress, FNA strengthened partnerships, elevated nursing concerns statewide, and reinforced its role as a leading advocate for the profession. Looking ahead, planning is already underway for the 2026 Legislative Session and FNA's Annual Advocacy Days in February.

Members are encouraged to stay engaged through the Health Policy Special Interest Group, which meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. Details are available at [www.floridanurse.org](http://www.floridanurse.org). ■

---

## Help Us Build Power for 2026: Support the PAC Today!

Thanks to the support of our members, the Florida Nurses PAC made a powerful impact in the last election, endorsing **9 Senators** and **26 Representatives** who were successfully elected and now serve in the Florida Legislature.

These victories mean more champions for

nursing priorities like surgical smoke evacuation, strong oversight of nursing education, and expanding autonomy for nurse practitioners.

But next year's election cycle is already on the horizon, and we need your help to ensure nurses' voices remain strong in Tallahassee.

**Your donation—especially a monthly gift—helps us interview, endorse, and support candidates who stand with nurses and public health.**

Make your contribution today and help us build momentum for 2026! Donate to the PAC at [www.floridanurse.org/FNPAC](http://www.floridanurse.org/FNPAC). ■

---

## Rebuilding Together: Strengthening FNSA School Chapters Through Partnership and Purpose

The Florida Nursing Students Association (FNSA) is making strong progress in rebuilding school chapters through a unified, statewide effort. After disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the FNSA Board and a network of faculty consultants are working to restore chapter connections and strengthen student engagement.

A new communication network has been launched to bridge campuses and re-engage chapter leaders, fostering collaboration and a renewed sense of pur-

pose among nursing students. A recent virtual orientation drew enthusiastic participation and positive feedback, marking an encouraging step forward.

Looking ahead, the 2025 **Pre-Convention Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, September 20** (location to be announced). Each school chapter may send two representatives—students or a student-faculty pair—at no cost, with additional attendees welcome for a small fee. The workshop will emphasize leadership development, chapter-building strategies,

and convention preparation.

The momentum will continue at the **FNSA Annual Convention**, October 29–31, 2025, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Kissimmee. The theme, *"The Circle of Life,"* will highlight how nurses care for diverse patient populations.

With unity, dedication, and strong faculty support, FNSA is rebuilding more than chapters—it is cultivating a vibrant community of future nurses across Florida. For updates, visit [www.fnsa.net](http://www.fnsa.net) or email [info@fnsa.net](mailto:info@fnsa.net) ■