

Become a Stronger Voice for Nursing: Join FNA's Legislative Action Team

Every day, decisions made in the Florida Legislature shape the work of nurses and the health of the patients and communities they serve. From workplace safety and staffing concerns to advanced practice and public health policy, these issues demand a strong, informed nursing voice at the table. The Florida Nurses Association Legislative Action Team exists for exactly that purpose, and we are calling on nurses across the state to take the next step in their professional advocacy journey.

What Is the Legislative Action Team?

The FNA Legislative Action Team is a statewide network of nurses who stay informed on key legislative issues and take timely action when it matters most. Members receive legislative alerts, help communicate FNA's policy priorities, and ensure that lawmakers hear directly from nurses, the experts on patient care and the realities of Florida's healthcare system.

Current Action Team members play a vital role during each legislative session by sending messages to their legislators, participating in meetings, providing testimony, and serving as trusted resources on nursing and healthcare issues. Their commitment has made a measurable difference in advancing legislation that protects both nurses and patients.

Why Your Voice Matters

Nurses remain the most trusted profession in the nation, a distinction that carries tremendous influence in the policymaking process. When a nurse contacts a legislator, shares a story from practice, or provides testimony in committee, lawmakers listen. Every nurse, regardless of specialty, role, or practice setting, has the ability to influence policy. The Legislative Action Team is designed to make that engagement accessible, meaningful, and effective.

Introducing the On Demand Legislative Action Team Boot Camp

To support nurses who want to build their advocacy skills, FNA is proud to offer the Legislative Action Team Boot Camp, now available on demand. This two-hour online training, presented by Erin Ballas, Vice President of Public Affairs Consultants, provides nurses with practical tools to communicate effectively with policymakers and navigate the legislative process with confidence.

Through real examples, step by step guidance, and clear strategies, this training helps participants:

- Understand how a bill becomes a law in Florida
- Identify their legislators and prepare for advocacy conversations
- Use the FNA Advocacy Toolkit to take quick, meaningful action
- Deliver concise, impactful messages that resonate with lawmakers
- Prepare testimony and respond professionally during committee hearings

Upon completion, participants are invited to officially join FNA's Legislative Action Team and begin receiving alerts during the legislative session.

Your Opportunity to Make an Impact

Advocacy is a natural extension of nursing, protecting patients, supporting the profession, and promoting healthy communities. One of the benefits of joining the Legislative Action Team is that it is simple to participate and does not require a large time commitment. Even if you only have a few minutes now and then to send an email or make a quick phone call, your engagement still makes a difference. Not every member needs to schedule in person visits with legislators. Some members choose to take action entirely from home by responding to alerts and sharing their voice when it matters.

Whether you are new to advocacy or al-



ready active in legislative work, this is an opportunity to strengthen your voice, expand your influence, and stand alongside FNA members who are already leading the way.

Ready to Get Involved?

The on-demand training and Legislative Ac-

tion Team enrollment link are available on our website. Completing the boot camp is the first step toward joining a dedicated group of nurses who are shaping the future of healthcare in Florida.

Visit www.floridanurse.org/LAT to access the training and learn more about becoming

part of the Legislative Action Team.

Together, we can ensure that the nursing perspective is heard clearly and powerfully where it matters most. ■

NURSES AS TEACHERS

Embracing the Heart of Our Profession

By Parker J. Brigance DNP, MBA, RN, CEN, CCRN, CNE, NE-BC, NI-BC, EMT-P



Whether at the bedside, in the classroom, or leading change across a healthcare system, one truth remains: nurses are teachers at heart. It may not be the first role listed in a job description, but education is embedded in every aspect of nursing. From the first time a nurse explains a new medication, to mentoring a novice colleague during their first shift, teaching is the backbone of our practice as nurses.

In a profession that blends science, compassion, and critical thinking, education is one of our most powerful tools. Nursing is not just about administering medications or monitoring vital signs, the art of our profession is found in guiding our patients and their families through complex health experiences and empowering them with knowledge. Additionally, nurses can often be found supporting

their colleagues through their own learning journeys. Everything we do is centered around education, making it essential for nursing students and new nurses alike to understand the teaching and learning process.

Teaching Our Patients

Patient education is one of the most vital parts of our daily work. It's the consistency found in education, however, that is truly valuable. A nurse might explain the side effects of a new prescription, walk a patient through wound care techniques, or provide guidance on managing chronic illnesses like diabetes or hypertension. Nurses holding leadership positions may teach novice team members how to navigate the change process, or advocate for their patients on a systems level. These

moments are not simply about instruction, they are about building trust, reducing anxiety, and enabling better health outcomes. After all, our patients have trusted us to meet their healthcare needs.

Effective patient education requires more than just delivering facts. It demands clear communication, cultural sensitivity, and an understanding of how adults learn. Nurses must assess each patient's readiness to learn, preferred learning style, and potential barriers such as language or health literacy. Teaching in nursing cannot be a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Each patient deserves a dynamic, personalized, and relevant approach to learning.

Teaching the Next Generation

Equally important is the role nurses play in teaching one another. Whether precepting a new graduate or informally guiding a peer, teaching in the clinical environment builds confidence and competence across the profession. Nursing is a team sport. Although we may not be compensated like professional athletes, our team dynamics are perhaps more important. As healthcare becomes more complex, the need for strong nurse mentors and clinical educators has never been greater.

Experienced nurses are in a unique position to share the lessons learned through years of practice. This transfer of knowledge not only strengthens the