

Nursing Leadership's 2026 Advocacy Priorities

1. Strengthen the Health Care Workforce

- Support the **Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act (H.R. 1317/S.575)** to expand patient access to care by eliminating outdated and unnecessary federal barriers to services provided by advanced practice registered nurses under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- Support the **Strengthening Pathways to Health Professions Act (H.R. 593)** to extend the tax-exempt status provided to the National Health Service Corps program to similar HRSA health workforce programs.
- Enact the **Healthcare workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 5283 / S. 2759)** to recapture previously authorized visas for foreign-trained nurses to support medically underserved areas.
- Create a national graduate nurse education program and establish a permanent funding stream in Medicare for **hospitals to partner with schools of nursing**, community-based care settings and other hospitals to increase clinical education for advanced practice registered nursing students.
- Establish a **grant program to support public-private partnerships** of entities seeking to stabilize, support, analyze, develop and invest in nursing workforce centers to expand their data collection and solution-based problem solving for their individual states.

2. Protect Health Care Workers and Ensure Access

- Enact the **Save Healthcare Workers Act (S.1600/H.R.3178)** to provide federal **protection for health care workers against violence and intimidation**. Provide hospital grant funding for violence prevention training programs, equipment and technology to create a safer environment.
- Reauthorize for five years the **Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (S.266/H.R. 929)**, which provides grants to **help health care organizations offer behavioral health services** for front-line health care workers.
- Remove the requirement that practitioners, rendering telehealth services from their homes, report their home addresses on Medicare enrollment or claims forms.
- Prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from implementing, enforcing or giving effect to a **final rule regarding minimum staffing for nursing facilities (S. 750/H.R. 1683)**.

3. Address Nurse Faculty and Clinical Site Shortages

- Invest in **nursing schools** to ensure education pathways, support nursing schools, students, faculty and education infrastructure by providing resources to hire and retain faculty, modernize nursing curriculum, technology and simulation labs.
- Reauthorize the **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (S.1874/H.R. 3593)** to fund existing workforce development programs through FY 2029.
- Establish a **pilot program to increase wages for nurse educators** and support efforts to recruit and retain faculty.
- Provide grant funding to **nursing schools** to expand their capacity to train nurses by **hiring more faculty and clinical preceptors**.
- Enact the **Providing Real-World Education and Clinical Experience by Precepting Tomorrow's (PRECEPT) Nurses Act (H.R.392/S.131)** to provide a \$2,000 tax credit for nurses to serve as clinical preceptors to students and recent hires.

About AONL

As the national professional organization of more than 12,000 nurse leaders, the American Organization for Nursing Leadership is the voice of nursing leadership. Our membership encompasses nurse leaders working in hospitals, health systems, academia and other settings across the care continuum. AONL is an affiliate of the American Hospital Association.