

Nursing Leadership's 2026 Advocacy Priorities

1. Strengthening the Health Care Workforce and Protect Access

- 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**Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act (H.R. 1317 / S. 575)** to expand patient access to care by eliminating outdated and unnecessary federal barriers to services provided by advanced practice registered nurses under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.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.
- Enact the **National Nursing Workforce Center Act (H.R. 4407 / S. 1482)** to support and stabilize the nursing workforce by creating state and regional nursing workforce centers to improve data collection, support recruitment and retention strategies and help states respond to nursing shortages.
- Reject the **Nurses Belong in Nursing Homes Act (S. 3886)** due to the risk of unintentionally destabilizing nursing home access and care delivery by imposing rigid federal staffing mandates, including 3.48 nursing hours per resident per day and 24/7 registered nurse coverage, that many facilities may be unable to meet.

2. Protecting Health Care Workers

- 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.

3. Addressing Nurse Faculty and Clinical Site Shortages

- Support the **Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (S. 3435 / H.R. 6607)** to strengthen education pathways by investing in nursing schools, students and faculty, including resources to hire and retain faculty, modernize nursing curricula, expand technology and upgrade simulation labs and educational infrastructure.
- Reauthorize the **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (S. 1874 / H.R. 3593)** to fund existing workforce development programs through FY 2029.
- Support the **Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act (S. 3707 / H.R. 7279)** to provide grant funding to close the pay gap between nurse faculty and clinical nurses.
- Enact the **Providing Real-World Education and Clinical Experience by Precepting (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 13,000 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.