

Defending Nursing's Principles and Protecting Our Patients

Submitted by*: Washington State Nurses Association, ANA/California, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Delaware Nurses Association, Florida Nurses Association, Hawai'i ANA, ANA Illinois, Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses, Montana Nurses Association, ANA Ohio, Oregon Nurses Association, Nebraska Nurses Association, New Mexico Nurses Association, ANA Vermont

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

We are submitting this resolution in response to the significant federal policies and actions that have affected nurses and patients over recent months. These changes have had direct effects on affiliates, C/SNAs, and members. These federal policy changes threaten the nursing profession and the patients we serve. Significant concern has been raised among members about the role and priorities of ANA, and we support a resolution to reaffirm the priorities of the Membership Assembly. Rationales are further explained in the "Whereas" sections.

Goals:

- 1) **Reaffirm our commitment to nursing's values.** These have defined ANA throughout history and must be grounded in our Code of Ethics.
- 2) **Highlight the need for ANA to be more visible and direct** about its position on foundational issues affecting the profession and patient care.
- 3) **Address major issues without a political lens.** No political parties are mentioned because our values and priorities should transcend any political party or identity.
- 4) **Unify the voice of the profession, affiliates, & C/SNAs** by highlighting our universal commitment to these values, regardless of region.

WHEREAS, the *Code of Ethics for Nurses* (2025) affirms nurses' obligation to advocate for our patients and for policies that promote equitable access to safe, high-quality care; and

WHEREAS, the ANA has a long record of embracing core principles in support of access to care, nursing workforce development, science-based public health measures, and diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, various policies supported and proposed by the current administration, including federal budget plans, regulatory measures and Executive Orders pose an urgent and direct threat to these core principles; these policies include:

- Attempts to dismantle or substantially weaken the Affordable Care Act and eliminate patient protections or limit access
- Proposed cuts to Medicaid and Medicare that would limit access to care for vulnerable populations;
- Opposition to science-based public health guidance and promotion of misinformation;
- Efforts to weaken federal nursing workforce development programs and reduce investment in nursing education and training;

* Current list as of 12pm June 27, 2025

- Attacks on labor rights, which threaten the rights of nurses to take collective action to protect patients and improve working conditions;
- Rollbacks of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in healthcare and academic institutions;
- The growing consolidation of healthcare delivery systems under private equity ownership, which undermines transparency, quality, and patient-centered care; and

WHEREAS, these policy proposals threaten the ability of nurses to practice to the full extent of their licensure and education, worsen nursing workforce shortages, and diminish the health outcomes of the communities we serve; and

WHEREAS, ANA, as the national voice of the nursing profession, has a responsibility to advocate clearly and directly against harmful policies that compromise nursing practice and patient safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Membership Assembly strongly urges the ANA Board to take immediate, visible, and sustained public positions in opposition to federal policies that:

- Erode access to care or coverage through programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act;
- Undermine the nursing workforce through cuts to funding for nursing education, nursing research, or nursing workforce diversity;
- Spread health misinformation or attack science-based public health practices, including dismissal of experts on immunization from advisory committees;
- Dismantle or weaken diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in healthcare and nursing;
- Restrict the rights of nurses to organize, unionize, or take collective action;
- Dismantle programs that provide life-saving care and services to underserved populations around the world through USAID and programs such as PEPFAR;
- Remove access to a wide range of health-related databases and other important web-based resources;
- Permit ICE raids in health care facilities and that create a climate of fear that has prevented many immigrants from accessing health care services;
- Limit access to women's reproductive care, and attack LGBTQ+ rights and health, including suicide prevention services for LGBTQ+ youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ANA Membership Assembly expresses its position that ANA must directly articulate the profession's strong opposition to these threats and reaffirm ANA's commitment to equity, patient-centered care, public health, professional autonomy, and evidence-based nursing practice.

REFERENCE

American Nurses Association (2025). *Code of Ethics for Nurses*. American Nurses Association.