



## #NURSESVOTE 2018 - TOP NURSING ISSUES

Shape the policies that impact *your* profession at the ballot box on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The entire 435-member U.S. House of Representatives along with 35 U.S. Senate seats are in play, and the stakes are high. Before you pull the lever, check your candidate's vitals against the policies that affect you and your patients most. Help us return our champions of nursing to Congress and elect a new generation of lawmakers who appreciate the profession and the impact of issues, including:

- **Safe staffing:** We know appropriate nurse staffing ratios protect patients from significantly greater rates of preventable complications, high-cost adverse events, and even death. Safe staffing also protects against high levels of burnout and turnover among nurses. The [\*Safe Staffing for Nurse and Patient Safety Act of 2018\*](#) (H.R. 5052/S. 2446) empowers direct care nurses to determine the unique needs of their patients and the appropriate experience needed to deliver safe and quality care.
- **Opioid Crisis:** Nurses are a critical part of the solution. Throughout the year, Congress worked to advance comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the opioid crisis. ANA was there every step of the way, advocating for expanded authority to provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and calling on Congress to support nurses delivering care to Americans with substance use disorders. We urge you to support those Members of Congress who recognized nursing's role in fighting this epidemic and championed the following major victories for your profession and the patients you serve.
  - *Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017* ([H.R. 3692/S. 2317](#));
  - *Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018* ([H.R. 5102/S. 2524](#))
- **Nurse Workforce Development:** Title VIII Nursing Workforce programs represent the only dedicated federal program aimed at bolstering nursing education from entry-level preparation through graduate study. For five decades, these programs have helped build the supply of qualified nurses needed across health care settings. ANA has been busy this year working to reauthorize these programs, and our allies in Congress have too. We've already passed the *Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2018* ([H.R. 959/S. 1109](#)) in the House, and, with your help, we can claim another big victory by getting it across the finish line in the Senate. Support those who support investing in you.
- **Health Care Reform:** The November 6<sup>th</sup> election will have enormous implications for the direction of our nation's health care system. Early attempts by the current Congress sought to undermine important progress and key protections for patients, including coverage of pre-existing conditions, essential health benefits, and expanded coverage for some of our nation's most vulnerable populations. ANA remains steadfast in its mission to advocate for greater access to quality, affordable care and urge you to consider candidates' perspective on health reform as you head to the polls.

As a nurse, you have first-hand knowledge and a unique understanding of why these topics are of paramount significance to the nursing field. When you cast your ballot on Election Day, exercise your ability to elect members of Congress who will fight for the issues most important to your profession.