Addressing the Nursing & Primary Care Shortage

A shortage of registered nurses and other primary care providers is looming in the state of Georgia. Recent studies by the Kaiser Foundation and the Georgia Health Policy Center suggest that Georgia already has a significant shortage of primary care providers, including registered nurses, which will worsen as demand continues to increase. Efforts are underway in our state to implement new incentives for those choosing to pursue a career in primary health care. In the 2014 session, Senate Bill 391 passed creating tax incentives for physicians who train/precept physicians, physicians assistants and nurse practitioners through the Georgia AHEC. **GNA supports extending a similar tax credit to APRNs who precept, as well as new incentives to attract students to the nurse faculty career path.**

Autonomy for the Board of Nursing’s utilization of Nurse Licensure Fees

Nursing is the largest licensed profession in Georgia. While Georgia’s Board of Nursing has improved its processes of RN licensure and discipline in recent years, continuous inadequate allocation of nurse licensure fees and an inferior technology system at the PLB have caused unacceptable system outages that delay disciplinary cases and the timely issuance and renewal of RN licenses. As a result of GNA’s advocacy efforts, $1.6 million was allocated in the FY 2015 state budget to implement mandatory reporting and hire nine new GBON staff positions. GNA expresses disappointment that the full level appropriated in the budget for the Board of Nursing has not been accessible by the BON as intended. **GNA seeks autonomy for the Board of Nursing over the licensure fees paid by nurses to improve levels of responsiveness, constituent services and adequate technology resources.**

Ensuring Nursing Workforce Safety

Registered nurses are on the front lines of the health care delivery system. There are many risks to nurses and all health care workers involved in the delivery of quality patient care, including the risk of exposure to infectious disease, an increase in cases of violence against nurses and lateral violence or bullying. Nurses must have access to adequate personal protective equipment, and hospitals must have adequate protocols in place to handle cases of infectious disease and/or violence against nurses while caring for patients. **GNA supports initiatives to strengthen protection for Georgia’s nursing workforce in every practice setting.**

Nursing Practice & Regulation

Removing the barriers that limit access to quality health care. The Institute of Medicine’s landmark 2010 *Future of Nursing* report offers a thorough examination of the U.S. nursing workforce. The IOM Report recommends to stem the tide of inadequate access to primary health care services by allowing nurses to “practice to the full extent of their education and training.” This could significantly improve access to care in Georgia, especially in rural areas of the state. **GNA continues to support efforts to remove regulatory barriers to APRN scope of practice in Georgia.**

To view GNA’s 2015 Legislative Platform, visit:  
http://www.georgianurses.org/?page=2015GNAPlatform