**Funding Mandatory Reporting**

Georgia made significant progress to ensure patient safety in 2013 by enacting a Mandatory Reporting law for nurses who violate the Georgia Nurse Practice Act. Unfortunately, the new law contains language making Mandatory Reporting effective only “when funds are specifically appropriated” by the General Assembly. GNA collaborated with the Board of Nursing, Georgia Hospital Association and others to shape the Mandatory Reporting law, intending to further protect patients in Georgia. **GNA supports efforts to fully fund the Mandatory Reporting law that passed in 2013 to protect patients from those who violate Georgia’s Nurse Practice Act.**

**Nursing Practice & Regulation**

Remove barriers that prevent Advance Practice Registered Nurses from utilizing the full scope of their education and training to provide health care services in Georgia. The Institute of Medicine’s 2010 Future of Nursing Report offers a thorough examination of the U.S. nursing workforce. The IOM Report recommends that “Nurses should 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 supports efforts to remove regulatory barriers to APRN scope of practice in Georgia.**

**Address and Eliminate Georgia Board of Nursing Backlog**

Georgia’s Secretary of State and Board of Nursing have made vast improvements in the process of RN licensure and discipline within the current regulatory system. Yet, tightening state budgets and limited resources have caused system delay in the processing of disciplinary cases and timely issuance and renewal of RN licenses when compared to surrounding states. This delay, specifically to disciplinary complaints, has a negative effect on patient safety in our state. Currently, only about 50 percent of nurse licensure fees collected are appropriated to the Board of Nursing. The rest is spent elsewhere in the state’s general fund. Additional human and technology resources can be funded at no cost to the state if the full amount of nurse licensure fees paid by nurses were allocated to the profession’s regulatory system. **GNA recommends that all nurse licensure fees collected by the state be appropriated to the Board of Nursing.**

**Essential Nursing Health Care Services**

Georgia must continue to support the accessibility of essential nursing health care services. State revenues continue to rebound, so it is critical for the State to continue funding essential nursing health care services, such as Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids and Public Health services to ensure the health and well-being of Georgia’s most vulnerable patients. **GNA believes essential nursing health care programs should be funded at or above FY 2014 levels. GNA also supports the continued funding of school nurses for children enrolled in Georgia public schools.**