**Tennessee Nurse
Winter 2022 Issue
Run in GOVA section after Meet TNA’s New Director of Government Affairs and Chief Lobbyist.**

**Legislative and Health Policy Statements**

Legislative and health policy statements respond to specific health problems by describing and analyzing potential policies to address these problems. They also set expectations and proper ways to advocate for the practice of nursing, help promote consistency in practices, reduce mistakes, and keep patients and nurses safe. TNA is the unifying voice for nursing in Tennessee, and to positively influence the future of healthcare, there must be nurse advocacy and political involvement at the legislative level. This allows us to achieve specific health care goals as outlined. These statements will guide our advocacy efforts.

The Government Affairs Committee is charged with reviewing and updating TNA’s legislative and health policy statements every two years. The updated version was presented before the general assembly at the TNA Annual Conference and accepted as our legislative and health policy agenda moving into 2023-2024.



 **2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE AND HEALTH
 POLICY STATEMENTS**

**Introduction:** The Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA) is the professional association representing over 115,000 Tennessee registered nurses. This position paper outlines the basic philosophy of the TNA’s Membership Assembly relative to health care policy.

**Mission:** Improve health and health care for all Tennesseans and residents of the state, promote the practice of nursing as essential to improvement efforts and transformational change, advance nurse leaders, and serve as the voice for professional nurses.

The American Nurses Association’s Code of Ethics outlines foundational provisions that frame TNA’s initiatives and actions.

**Vision**: TNA supports a transformed and modern patient-centered health care delivery system that ensures all Tennesseans and residents of the State have access to equitable and affordable essential services no matter where they live or when they are needed. Primary care and prevention are priorities, inter-professional collaboration and care coordination are promoted to benefit patients, and innovation is fostered to promote efficiency and effectiveness in improving patient outcomes and reduce disparities for all Tennesseans.

**Goals**: TNA is supportive of initiatives that improve health and health care and advance the following goals:

**Optimal health system performance, including:**

* Improved population health outcomes; and
* Reduced health and health care disparities; and
* Promotion of equity;
* Improved patient experiences; and
* Expanded use of technology such as telehealth; and
* Affordable and sustainable costs.

**Access to high-quality, affordable and acceptable care for all Tennesseans and residents of the state, including:**

* Provision of a standardized package of essential health care services with protection against catastrophic costs and impoverishment; and
* Expansion of primary care, mental health, and other community-based services by allowing all professional nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and experiences.

**Full practice authority and enhanced participation in the delivery of care and policymaking for all registered nurses, including:**

* Support for the Tennessee Board of Nursing as the sole regulatory authority over nursing education and practice; and
* Adoption of the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education (2008); and
* Elimination of financial, regulatory, organizational, and institutional barriers that unnecessarily impede the practice of professional nursing; and
* Participation of registered nurses on all local, state, and national health care advisory, policymaking, and governing boards, committees, and task forces; and

**Assuring an adequate, competent and diverse nursing workforce to meet current and projected health care demands, including:**

* Improved data collection and information infrastructure to inform policymaking, planning, and evaluation; and
* Promotion of higher levels of education and training through seamless academic progression, inter-professional education of health professionals, and lifelong learning; and
* Funding for nursing students and faculty; and
* Improved nursing work environments that prioritize safety and quality, engages and empowers nurses; and fosters team-based care and decision-making; and
* Protects and differentiates the practice of professional nursing in Tennessee.

**Protecting and advancing the nursing profession:**

* Modernize regulations, laws, ordinances and policies to include provider neutral language; and
* Prevent workplace violence and discrimination.