



North Carolina Nurses Association Comments to the NC House Select Committee on COVID-19, Health Care Working Group

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Presenters

- Ms. Tina Gordon, MPA, CAE, FACHE
 - CEO, North Carolina Nurses Association
- Dr. Dennis Taylor, RN, DNP, PhD, ACNP-BC
 - President, North Carolina Nurses Association



Feedback from the Frontlines

- Lack of Personal Protective Equipment
 - Healthcare facilities (ED, ICU, OR)
 - Provider offices (Primary care, Urgent care)
 - Safety of re-use/multiple use
- Childcare
 - Flexibility of schedules
- Fear/Anxiety
 - Family, patients, layoffs/reassignment
- Safety
 - They don't want to spread virus

Feedback from the Frontlines

- Bed availability
 - ICU and transitional beds
- Equipment availability
 - Ventilators
 - Advanced monitoring equipment
- Workforce
 - Cross-training
 - Looking at other healthcare professionals
 - RCP, PT, OT, PharmD, SLP



Regulatory

Already in Progress

- Retired RN re-entry
- Inactive RNs
- Senior student RN
- APRN graduates

Emerging Workforce Needs

- Remove barriers



NCNA Requests

- Aggressive support of Stay-at-Home orders
- Full utilization of the power and influence of legislators to pressure for expedited manufacturing and distribution of PPE to all frontline healthcare providers
- Maximum workforce flexibility to allow as many nurses as possible to maximize their contributions
- Encourage employer flexibility in how HR policies are used to assist nurses



The Voices of Nurses

“Please consider nurses on the frontline as soldiers protecting our state. Ensure they have adequate equipment, protection and support.”

“This is the scariest time I’ve ever experienced. I am having to choose to reuse supplies and therefore risk my exposure. I feel unsafe. My patients are unsafe. Something needs to change immediately.”

“We need more PPE and better ways to stay safe than utilizing disposable one time use PPE for 12+ hours and then have to wear “reprocessed” masks.



“Re-using PPE for multiple shifts, lowering PPE requirements, and ‘sterilization procedures’ is a definite concern.”

“Because of the PPE usage restrictions nurses are more vulnerable to exposure.”

“There is not enough PPE for front line nursing staff. I am not comfortable with the measures hospital organizations are taking with their own healthcare professionals, going against decades of what we have been taught in evidence-based infection control practice.”

“Suggesting that we reuse PPE without evidence for the safety of that is unacceptable”



“Nurses are used to providing care based on evidenced based practices and we are being asked to modify our care based on supplies.”

“I’m seriously concerned about the mental health of our profession and the impacts it will have on the workforce going forward.”

“We will need more nurses when those caring for patients now get ill.”

“We are risking our lives to serve our patients. Yes, we signed up for this, but we signed up under the assumption that we would have PPE supplies to protect ourselves so that we can protect our families and patients.”



North Carolina Nurses Association

www.ncnurses.org

tinagordon@ncnurses.org

