Dedicated to excellence in nursing and preparing the nursing workforce to meet the health care needs of our diverse populations, the National League for Nursing is the premier organization representing all types of nursing education programs—doctoral, master’s, baccalaureate, associate degree, diploma, and practical/vocational. With more than 1,200 nursing schools and health care agencies, 37,000 individual members comprising nurses, educators, administrators, public members, and 24 regional constituent leagues, the NLN is a powerful voice for public policy.

Implicit in the League’s core values of caring, integrity, diversity, and excellence is civic engagement in shaping public policies that affect everyone’s quality of health and care.

The NLN’s 2013 – 2014 Public Policy Agenda:
- Articulates priority issues addressed by the NLN
- Informs members and colleague organizations, the public, government officials, and the media about the NLN’s public policy interests
- Provides a framework for the NLN’s analysis and synthesis of developments that influence public policy

Government Affairs at the NLN
The elected Board of Governors and board Public Policy Committee are responsible for the oversight of the NLN’s government affairs activities. The League understands that this is a time of great opportunity in health care. Collaboration creates meaningful outcomes and NLN members seek partnerships with legislators and regulators who value the health of our nation. Keeping the nation’s health demands and the economic environment in mind, in 2013 and 2014, the NLN will focus on the following priorities:
- Access to Quality Health Care for All
- Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Diversity
- Nurse Workforce Development
- The Nurse Faculty Shortage

For more information, contact:
Kathleen A. Ream
Director, NLN Government Affairs
571-213-5662; kream@nln.org
In 2013 and 2014, the NLN will:

- Support continuing education for health professionals who commit to practice in underserved areas.
- Advocate for health care funding that means the cessation of a diverse, ever-changing health care environment.
- Promote access to primary care through the enhancement of services by local community-health centers and neighborhood clinics, and advocate for increased funding for the_continuance of preventive health-care services and education.
- Champion and evaluate policies and programs that build and strengthen capacity for interdisciplinary education and care, including patient-centric care.
- Collaborate with other organizations to promote a scope of nursing practice that allows all nurses to practice in the full extent of their education, license, and experience.

**Intervention**

**In 2013 and 2014, the NLN will:**

- Support government efforts, such as Title VII-Health Professionals, to promote greater ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity and minority access to nursing education.
- Call on the federal government to expand investment in resources that attract and nurture culturally competent nursing education that leads to equitable, evidence-based health care delivery.
- Support policy initiatives that promote effective workforce planning through timely and evidence-based-nurse workforce data collection and education.
- Champion policies and programs that enhance the transition of veterans with military health care training to the civilian nurse workforce.
- Collaborate with other organizations and use evidence-based policy strategies for health care capacity building.

**Health disparities**

Health disparities exist across categories of race and ethnicity, socioeconomics status; age; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics linked to discrimination or exclusion. The NLN’s goal to attain health equity requires valuing every person equally with focused attention on conditions resulting from avoidable inequalities, injustices, and the diminution of health and health care disparities.

**Access to Quality Health Care for All**

Our nation is enriched by cultural complexity – 37 percent of our population identifies as nonwhite. Most nurses are nonwhite, and gender diversity among nursing student and nurse educator populations. The NLN survey for the 2010-2011 academic year reported that 32 percent of all full-time nurse faculty members were African American, 20 percent were Hispanic, 16 percent were Asian American, 4 percent were Native American, 2 percent were Alaska Native, and 1 percent were Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

**Training**

The Nurse Faculty Shortage

In 2013 and 2014, the NLN will:

- Advocate for policies that provide for nursing education programs with the necessary faculty to educate the next generation of nurses to meet the health care challenges of the future.
- Advocate for increased funding for Title VIII-Nursing Workforce Development Programs to strengthen critical efforts that address the faculty shortages.
- Support policy initiatives to establish a seamless infrastructure that promotes lifelong learning and academic and professional progression of appropriately educated nurses—such as from practical vocational to doctoral preparation.
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