



A Joint Statement from the Tri-Council for Nursing: Increase Access to Care through APRN Practice

**American Association of Colleges of Nursing | American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives | National League for Nursing**

Washington, DC, December 1, 2017 – The Tri-Council for Nursing is deeply disappointed in the resolution passed at the Interim Meeting of the American Medical Association’s (AMA) House of Delegates, which renews the AMA’s commitment to limiting the practice of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) across the country through model legislation and national and state-level campaigns.

The Tri-Council knows that when nurses practice to the full extent of their education and clinical training, patients and our healthcare system benefit.

The 2010 report released by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, outlines several paths by which patient access to care may be expanded, quality preserved or improved, and costs controlled through greater use of APRNs. Unfortunately, the AMA resolution directly conflicts with the IOM’s recommendations.

“APRNs provide safe care and collaborate with other health care professionals including physicians, comprising the health care team,” says National League for Nursing (NLN) President G. Rumay Alexander, EdD, RN, FAAN. “Our disappointment is in our fellow AMA and not our physician colleagues. This type of regulatory reform has the potential to delay aid provided by APRNs – especially during disasters or crisis.”

“We urge the AMA to abandon this divisive tactic, which will directly impact the nation’s APRNs, and impede patient care. APRNs practice advanced nursing, not medicine, and they regularly consult, collaborate and refer as necessary to ensure that the patient receives appropriate diagnosis and treatment,” comments American Nurses Association (ANA) President Pamela F. Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN.

“Increased access to care can only be achieved when all providers of the healthcare team practice to the top of their licenses. As innovation and collaboration continue to be hallmarks of the 21st healthcare system, we must work together to develop models of care that improve the health of the nation, basing those care delivery models on collaboration and full scope, team-based care” added American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Board Chair, Juliann G. Sebastian PhD, RN, FAAN.

“The Tri-Council advocates that nursing care be dynamic and fluid across state boundaries to increase access to care while maintaining public safety. This resolution goes against this belief,” noted American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) President Joan Shinkus Clark, DNP, RN, FAAN.

About the Tri-Council for Nursing

The Tri-Council for Nursing is an alliance of four autonomous nursing organizations each focused on leadership for education, practice, and research. While each organization has its own constituent membership and unique mission, they are united by common values and convene regularly for the purpose of dialogue and consensus building, to provide stewardship within the profession of nursing. These organizations represent nurses in practice, nurse executives and nursing educators. The Tri-Council’s diverse interests encompass the nursing work environment, health care legislation and policy, quality of health care, nursing education, practice, research and leadership across all segments of the health delivery system.