



TO: Wisconsin State Assembly Representative
FROM: Wisconsin Nurses Association
Date: June 5, 2023
RE: Request to oppose Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 204

The members of the Wisconsin Nurses Association respectfully request that the members of the Assembly oppose Substitute Amendment 1 AB 204, relating to: renewal dates and continuing education requirements for certain credentials issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services and credentialing boards and granting rule-making authority.

Of utmost concern is the language in SA 1, Section 39 which removes the ability for DWD to obtain meaningful and important information from all Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses via a workforce survey which is conducted at the time of license renewal. SA 1 makes the collection of data from RNs or LPNs voluntary and mandate they pay \$4.00 to provide their voluntary information. Additionally, this approach creates variation in fiscal and structural management of program revenue which is currently not an issue. This volunteer approach was piloted in 2001 and again in 2006 involving two State Departments, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Nurses Association and 12 members of the Wisconsin Nursing Coalition. Despite the multiple publicity and awareness strategies, response rates were less than 22 percent. The information gleaned could not be applied to all of the nursing workforce as there was not a randomized approach and nurses self-selected to participate. This information would be helpful if the intent was to be a marketing survey. The purpose of the nursing workforce survey is to obtain data from every nurse thus making the information accurate and reliable. The accuracy and reliability of this information drives better policy decisions at legislative, community and employer levels.

Data collected from past surveys have yielded crucial information regarding the current and future supply and demand of Wisconsin's nurses. The 2022 RN Workforce Report provides important and significant information regarding the demand and supply of RNs post-COVID which by the numbers includes:

- Loss of 20,000 RNs from the Wisconsin workforce.
- 30 percent of RNs are leaving direct care in the next five years.
- 7,996 Advanced Practice Nurses being utilized to deliver primary care services in rural and population dense areas of Wisconsin.
- 48 percent of RNs identified worsening of their physical and mental well-being.
- Dramatic shrinkage of the supply of nurse educators while the demand for nurse educators is increasing.

The 2022 report indicates that we will not have sufficient number of nurses to meet the health needs of Wisconsin's exploding older adult population. Moreover, the ability to increase the supply of nurses remains a threat due to the lack of nurse faculty. This information supports a "Call to Action" for the redesign of healthcare delivery, more preventative strategies, and addressing the well-being of Wisconsin's largest health care workforce. We will need the data collected from the 2023 LPN and 2024 RN surveys to assess outcomes regarding supply and demand.

We know these issues because we have the data coming directly from Wisconsin's nurses. Now is not the time to attempt to collect this important information voluntarily. Wisconsinites depend on the largest health care workforce, LPNs, and RNs, to be there, at the bedside, in the home, in our clinics and schools delivering the care that is needed. Please oppose SA1 to AB 204.