



**ANNA**  
American Nephrology  
Nurses Association

## **2026 STATE HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES**

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) will work independently and in collaboration with kidney care organizations and professional nursing coalitions to identify and respond to health policy issues in any state that affect nephrology nursing practice and the individuals for whom we provide care.

### **Priorities for Coverage and Payment Related Issues**

1. Monitor policies related to Medicaid payment systems impacting individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).
2. Advocate for access to care that focuses on prevention and promotes kidney health, including person-centered, quality, and evidence-based care.
3. Advocate for health policy initiatives that support and promote organ donation and increase transplantation.
4. Advocate for health policy initiatives that support and promote home dialysis therapies.
5. Actively seek opportunities to remove barriers and promote inclusion of all individuals in the provision of quality health care while eradicating disparities.
6. Advocate for state funding and health policy initiatives that support early identification, prevention, and slowing progression of CKD.
7. Advocate for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to promote their appropriate reimbursement.
8. Support health policy initiatives that ensure all individuals with end stage kidney disease (ESKD) have access to Medigap insurance.

### **Priorities for State Boards of Nursing Related Issues**

1. Monitor regulation changes impacting nephrology registered nurse (RN) practice.
2. Advocate for initiatives to ensure RNs and APRNs can practice to the full scope of their educational preparation, training, and license.
3. Advocate for and support, all states joining the Nurse Licensure Compact to facilitate disaster response and support RNs across state lines, including telehealth services.

### **Priorities for Nursing and General State Health Policy Issues**

1. Monitor proposed legislation impacting nephrology nursing practice and the care of individuals with CKD.
2. Support the initiation and participation in state kidney coalitions/caucuses.
3. Monitor state legislation, funding, and other regulatory initiatives to address the RN and nursing faculty shortage, and to improve recruitment and retention of a diverse nursing workforce.
4. Advocate for fair and consistent work environments that are healthy and safe.
5. Advocate for the removal of geographic and practice setting limitations for RNs and APRNs.
6. Advocate for staffing decisions to be made by RNs, based on the needs of the individual patient.

7. Advocate for the use of acuity classification systems, in partnership with RNs to determine staffing needs.
8. Advocate for policies to support research on nursing models of care that promote optimal patient outcomes.
9. Support the restriction of the title "registered nurse" to only those individuals who have fulfilled the requirements for licensure as a RN as outlined in each state's nurse practice act.
10. Support health policy initiatives that foster patient and health care worker safety such as improved patient handling techniques to protect nurses and other health care workers from injury.
11. Advocate for the establishment of comprehensive prevention programs in health care settings to address workplace violence.

***Adopted by the ANNA Board of Directors in September 2012  
Revised and/or reaffirmed annually from 2013-2025  
Most recently revised: March 2026***

***The State Health Policy Priorities are reviewed and reaffirmed annually.***