

NURSES AT THE CAPITOL JANUARY 27, 2010
Charlotte Wynn, MSN, CRNP, CH
Chair, Legislative Committee

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the second annual Nurses at the Capitol rally. The Legislative Committee is currently making plans for an event even larger and more impressive than 2009. The Alabama State Nurses Association and the Alabama Coalition of Nursing Organizations sponsored a statewide rally for nurses at the Alabama State House and Capitol in Montgomery in February 2009. The event highlighted the worsening nursing shortage and increasing concerns over access to quality healthcare for Alabamians. Over 1,000 nurses and student nurses from all over the state attended, making this the largest gathering of nursing professionals in Montgomery in many years.



Next year we expect to face many challenges in the legislature. We know we cannot adequately address the nurse shortage if we do not have an increased number of qualified nurse educators in our schools of nursing. We will be trying to pass a meaningful nurse scholarship bill. We expect nurse practitioner legislation next year to try to address the unique challenges to their practice in Alabama. Our state is the most restrictive to nurse practitioners and yet we have many unmet health needs. Our Board of Nursing was ordered to pay \$2.5 million dollars to the General Fund. As the board is funded only by the fees and other money it collects, the state is trying to balance the budget off the backs of nurses. No other board was ordered to give the state their licensing fees. We must stop this raid on our Board of Nursing. These challenges are too great to be ignored.

Our gathering at the state capitol is intended to highlight problems we face, and increase the visibility of nurses in the public policy arena. With a successful rally we can kick off the legislative session to a great start. Make plans now to come to the capitol on January 27 from 10 to 12.

NURSES DAY AT THE CAPITOL ~ JANUARY 27, 2010

Join us for 2010's Nurses Day at the Capitol. Meet lawmakers, listen to influential members of nursing, and show your concern for the policies that affect you. Last year's attendance was close to 1,500 and we hope to beat that record this year.

Please register online at alabamanurses.org or complete the form below to indicate that you plan to attend this important event.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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