

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2023

CONTACT: Cara Gustafson
(561) 797-8267
cara@publicblueprint.com

27 Organizations Join to Announce Nursing Shortage Reduction Coalition

AUSTIN, TX - Today, 27 organizations representing large segments of the healthcare continuum in Texas are announcing their joint effort to address Texas' nursing shortage crisis.

Texas is facing an acute shortage of nurses. The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (the "Center") reported a shortage of over 27,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) in 2018 and projected a shortage of approximately 57,000 RNs by 2032.¹ The Center also projected a shortage of Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) will emerge this decade and projected a shortage of approximately 12,500 LVNs by 2032. Notably, the Center conducted this study prior to the impacts of COVID-19.

The Nursing Shortage Reduction Coalition firmly believes Texas is well-positioned to increase the supply of nurses within the state. The Center recently released data showing over 15,000 qualified nursing school applications were not offered admission in 2021.² This follows a historic trend: on average Texas turns away more than 10,000 qualified applications each year from its nursing programs.

Three noteworthy programs already in existence offer paths forward to addressing Texas' nursing workforce crisis:

- **The Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP):** Increases the number of students admitted and nursing schools' capacity to train and graduate students by making capital investments in nursing schools, faculty, and preceptors.

¹ "Updated Nurse Supply and Demand Projections 2018-2032," Texas Health and Human Services – Texas Department of State Health Services (July 2020), available at: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/chs/cnws/WorkforceReports/2020-Updated-Nurse-Supply-and-Demand-Projections.pdf>

² 2021 Admission, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends in Professional Nursing Programs," Texas Health and Human Services – Texas Department of State Health Services (March 2022), available at: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/chs/cnws/NEPIS/2021/2021_RN_AdmissionEnrollmentGraduation.pdf

- **The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Assistance Program (NFLRP):** Increases the number of faculty available to teach students by repaying faculty members' student loans, creating financial incentive for nurses to serve as faculty.
- **The Nursing Innovation Grant Program (NIGP):** Promotes innovation in the education, recruitment, and retention of nursing students and qualified faculty through grants, clearing out a potential bottleneck in the nursing education pipeline.

We appreciate the leadership and attention of legislators already recognizing the challenge we face and rising to meet the challenge:

- **Governor Greg Abbott** spoke to the need for nursing education funding and the educator bottleneck during his February 2 press conference on workforce.
- **Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick** identified nursing education as a top priority for the legislative session during his November 30 press conference, and designated SB 25, creating new scholarships for registered nurses, as a priority bill for this session.
- **Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst**, Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, filed [SB 244](#) to increase the utility of the NFLRP and extend the NIGP. She is joined by **Senators Blanco, Campbell, Hall, and Perry** as Joint Authors.
- **Representative Stephanie Klick**, Chair of the House Public Health Committee, filed [HB 901](#), which is the companion bill to SB 244.

The Nursing Shortage Reduction Coalition is encouraged that the Senate and House base budgets include funding for the NSRP and the NFLRP. However, the Legislature could appropriate significantly more funding for the NSRP and continue to see meaningful returns on investment. Given the significant workforce shortages across Texas, the Coalition encourages lawmakers to consider additional funding for this vital program.

Texas must solve the nursing shortage or members of the public will see the quality of their care deteriorate as Texas health institutions struggle to provide medically necessary services. A lack of nurses will impact the quality of care provided and will ripple throughout the health care system.

Finally, it is important for Texas nurses to know that their sacrifices during the pandemic are appreciated, their need for support is recognized, and the members of this coalition will work together to get nurses the support they need to recover and thrive.

To learn more about the coalition and its efforts, or to speak with a specific coalition member, please reach out to Cara Gustafson at the information above or Jack Frazee, Director of Government Affairs and General Counsel at the Texas Nurses Association, at jfrazee@texasnurses.org.

The Nursing Shortage Reduction Coalition

TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION

TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS

TEXAS HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

TEXAS NURSE PRACTITIONERS

LEADINGAGE TEXAS

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR
HOME CARE & HOSPICE**

**ASSOCIATION OF PERIOPERATIVE RNs.
GREATER HOUSTON**

**ASSOCIATION OF OPERATING ROOM NURSES
NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF VOCATIONAL NURSE
EDUCATORS**

**CONSORTIUM OF TEXAS CERTIFIED NURSE
MIDWIVES**

**HOUSTON CHAPTER OF ONCOLOGY NURSING
SOCIETY**

**HOUSTON ORGANIZATION FOR NURSING
LEADERSHIP**

**PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES
OF TEXAS**

TEXAS DNP

TEXAS NURSING STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

**TEXAS ORGANIZATION FOR ASSOCIATE
DEGREE NURSING**

**TEXAS ORGANIZATION OF BACCALAUREATE
AND GRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION**

**TEXAS ORGANIZATION FOR NURSING
LEADERSHIP**

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

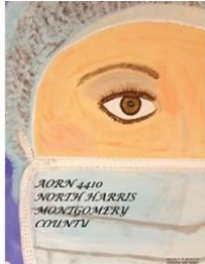
TEXAS SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

TEXAS CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF DEANS & DIRECTORS
OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS**

**TEXAS COLLABORATION OF PERIOPERATIVE
NURSES**

TEXAS EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION



Houston Chapter
Oncology Nursing Society



PAPN TEXAS
PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE
NURSES OF TEXAS



TxANA
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF
NURSE ANESTHETISTS



TCORN
Texas Collaboration of
periOperative Registered Nurses



Texas State Council



TNP
Texas Nurse Practitioners

