

NCENA GA Report July 2024

Upcoming GA Events

GAC @ EN24 5 September 2024 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

ENA Government Relations & Advocacy – Recent Developments Impacting Emergency Nurses

6 September 2024 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Advanced Government Relations: Next Level Strategies for Passing Legislation Impacting Emergency Nurses

6 September 2024 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

From Scrubs to Activism: Nurses as Advocates

18 September 2024 ENA GA Advocacy Call

29-30 April 2025 DOTH 2025 Washington, D.C.

16 April 2025 NCEP Advocacy Day Raleigh, NC

ENA Legislative Priorities

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) Reauthorization Act of 2024

H.R.6960/S.3765

H.R. Sponsor Earl Carter (R-GA), Co-sponsors Kathy Castor (D-FL), John Joyce (R-PA), Kim Shrier (D-WA) 1/11/2024 Rep. Deborah Ross NC-2, Rep. Don Davis NC-1 have signed on as co-sponsors.

Senate Sponsor Bob Casey (D-PA), Co-sponsor **Ted Budd (R-NC)** 2/7/2024

Sen. Budd being a co-sponsor is a big win for ENA and for North Carolina. Send him a personal letter thanking him for his support in this key reauthorization act.

Update: May 15, 2024 H.R. 6960 vote in House YEAS 399, NAYS 13 PASS

Update: May 23, 2024 S. 3765 VOTED FAVORABLY (19-2) by the Seante Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions and moved to the Senate calendar for further debate and voting.

Workplace Violence Protection for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act

H.R.2663/S.1176

This bill requires the Department of Labor to address workplace violence in health care, social service, and other sectors.

Specifically, Labor must issue an interim occupational safety and health standard that requires certain employers to take actions to protect workers and other personnel from workplace violence. The standard applies to employers in the health care sector, in the social service sector, and in sectors that conduct activities similar to those in the health care and social service sectors.

In addition, Labor must promulgate a final standard within a specified timeline.

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H.R. Sponsor Joe Courtney (D-CT), Co-sponsors (NC) Alma Admas (D-NC12), Donald Davis (D-NC1), Deborah Ross (D-NC2), Wiley Nickel (D-NC13), Kathy Manning (D-NC6) (159 total) 4/18/2023

Senate Sponsor Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Co-Sponsor 36 (D, I) none from NC 4/18/2023

SAVE Act (Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees Act)

H.R.2584/S.2768

This bill establishes a new criminal offense for knowingly assaulting or intimidating hospital personnel during the performance of their official duties in a manner that interferes with their performance of the duties or limits their ability to perform the duties.

Additionally, the bill authorizes grants to reduce the incidence of violence at hospitals, including violence or intimidation against hospital personnel in the performance of their duties.

H.R. Sponsor Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Co-sponsors (NC) Deborah Ross (D-NC2), Donald Davis (D-NC1), Kathy Manning (D-NC6), David Rouzer (R-NC7). (66 total) 4/23/2023. **Since DOTH, Valerie Foushee (D NC-4) has signed on as a co-sponsor.**

Senate Sponsor Joe Manchin (D-WV), Co-sponsors Marco Rubio (R-FL), Angus King (I-ME) 9/12/2023

*One-page flyers are available for each of these ENA legislative priorities.

Nurses Night at the NC Legislature

Nurse Night was held on May 21, 2024, at the Natural Science Museum in Raleigh. The focus of the night was once again on the SAVE Act (H218/S175). Waiting for the count of official legislative turnouts from NCNA. NCNA stated that 125 legislators had registered. 29 members of NCENA had registered for the event. NCENA GAC noted a lower attendance from legislators this year compared to previous years. Options for continued advocacy discussed at BOD meeting and GAC meeting.

NC Legislative Session

The short session of the NC Legislative Session has completed. Priority legislation, including the SAVE Act, remained in committee. Long-session will commence late-January – early-February 2025.

Old

S889 Protecting First Responders Act introduced in the NC Senate on May 2, 2024. The Act would criminalize exposing certain emergency responders to fentanyl or other harmful drug or chemical agents. (Includes nurses.) This Act would also appropriate funds for equipment to protect certain first responders. It would also set the minimum wages for certain first responders and require free mental health counseling and support for those employees.

Stop-the-Bleed Legislation 2024-2025

NCENA Government Affairs has formed a coalition with North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA), American College of Surgeons (ACS), North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and have initiated grassroots advocacy for legislation for bleeding control education as a requirement for high school graduation and bleeding control kit placement and maintenance in all public buildings in North

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Carolina. If you are interested and passionate about this vital work and want to learn more to help in support of this grassroots effort, reach out to Government Affairs.

Update: Regular meeting with coalition on 25 July 2024 resulted in support of draft legislation. During the off-session meetings will be scheduled with key stakeholders and the coalition. Continued advocacy and likely that a bill will be introduced early 2025 by filling deadline.

Workplace Violence Fact Sheet and Talking Points

NCENA Government Affairs, along with coalition partners is working on evidence-based and fact-based talking points for advocacy work involving prosecutorial measures for North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, North Carolina Association of Sheriffs, Inc., and The North Carolina Association of District Judges. More to come. If you are interested, please reach out to NCENA Government Affairs.

Update: Met with Judge April Wood on the NC Appellate Court who is sympathetic to barriers nurses and health care providers face when pressing charges for violence; as well as barriers that some health care systems face with complying with S.L. 125 (2023). More to come.

Position Statement Regarding the Future of the Nursing Workforce

In-line with ENA National priorities, NCENA GAC has developed an evidence-based, fact-based Position Statement Regarding the Future of the Nursing Workforce in North Carolina. NCENA Boards of Directors currently is reviewing the document and GAC recommendations to send this to NC legislature as well as the governor. More to come.

US Legislation 118th Congress

NCENA GA continues to monitor and advocate for relevant issues and ENA legislative priorities including Workplace Violence (H2663/S1176), Mental Health Access (H5414/S1346), Prevent BLEED Act (S1653), etc. (See Legiscan Report)

S.4351 Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs **PASS** on 7/11/2024 awaiting action on the House Floor 7/15/2024. **H.B.7251** Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024.

EN411

EN411 Grassroots Advocacy link: <https://votervoice.net/ENA/register> will allow you to send a letter to your US Senate and US House of Representative member. Everyone is encouraged to do their part to support issues that have a direct impact on emergency nurses and the patients and families we serve.

Congress is in their August recess. Many of the ENA supported Reauthorization Acts expire at the end of September 2025. ENA GA remains steadfast and confident that these will pass both chambers.

Attached is a list of current legislation the NCENA GA monitors in Congress and in North Carolina.

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New Action Alert:

Tyler's Law (H.R. 6600/ S. 3519) would help ensure that patients experiencing overdose are appropriately tested by requiring HHS to study the feasibility of testing for fentanyl in emergency departments to weigh the potential benefits against the burden on hospitals it might represent. Following the study, HHS would issue guidance to hospitals on whether and how they should implement such testing for fentanyl.

Fentanyl continues to ravage our communities. Maybe patients and providers need more information.

In 2022, more than 80,000 people died from opioid overdoses in the U.S., nearly all of these were caused by fentanyl;

Yet, current standard drug screens for overdose patients does not include fentanyl.

Empower Patients and Providers Against Fentanyl! Support Tyler's Law Today!

<https://www.votervoice.net/ENA/Campaigns/116889/Respond>

Additional action alerts available via EN411.