

The Michigan Nurses MARCH!

On Wednesday, March 12th, DMC RNs joined nearly 400 nurses in a march on the state capital in Lansing. The Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) sponsored the event to increase attention on issues critical to nursing practice. Participants were able to network with nurses from across the state, learn the latest news on nursing-related legislation, meet with legislators and rally on the capital steps.

MNA is the state voice of staff nurses and actively work to improve patient care, and shape the future of all staff nurses and the health care system for the better by advancing the economic and general welfare of nurses, providing a quality work environment, protecting nurse and patient safety and influencing nursing practice.

SUMMARY OF MNA'S POSITION ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES THAT IMPACT NURSING PRACTICE AND PATIENT CARE IN 2008:

Safe Patient Care Legislation

- MNA supports a requirement for minimum registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios in hospitals.
- MNA supports the prohibition of the use of mandatory overtime as a hospital staffing tool.
- MNA supports legislative action that gives direct care nurses the protection they need to safely treat and move patients without running the risk of debilitating musculoskeletal disorders to themselves or injury to their patients.

Universal Access to Safe and Affordable Health Care

- MNA supports a legislative solution to the growing number of uninsured and is in favor of health care for all Michigan residents regardless of economic status.

Public Funds Protection Act

- MNA supports legislation to prohibit public and private employers from using state funds to influence their employees about unionization. This bill would prevent the diversion of public money from patient care.

Employee Free Choice Act

- MNA supports the right of every worker to organize and join a union, and to bargain a first contract on an equal footing with management. This legislation prevents employees from being forced to attend mandatory meetings where their employer discusses their views on politics, religion or unions.

