

2020 Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda

AWHONN represents the interests of 350,000 nurses working in women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing across the United States. The items listed below represent our legislative and policy priorities for 2020.

- Advocate for improved health outcomes and access to increased services for at-risk populations, including women who are
 - pregnant and incarcerated
 - low income
 - experiencing a substance use disorder
 - members of racial or ethnic minority groups or immigrants
 - military members or veterans
 - currently trafficked or are at risk for human trafficking
 - marginalized for their gender identities or relationship status
 - disabled
- Advocate for unrestricted access to preventive health care services for all women such as annual well-woman visits; HPV vaccination; mammograms; cervical cancer screenings; pre-, inter-, and post-conception care; screenings for domestic violence, substance use, human trafficking, and mental health; and smoking cessation programs
- Support initiatives to allow access to a wide range of evidence-based options for contraception, including
 - a. Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for women of all reproductive ages, including adolescents, as well as access to LARC insertion in the immediate postpartum period
 - b. Unrestricted over-the-counter access to hormonal contraceptives (to include oral contraceptives, vaginal rings, the contraceptive patch, and depot medroxyprogesterone acetate injections) that are low cost, covered by insurance, and available to people of all ages without restrictions, as well as full contraception coverage by all insurance payers with no out of pocket expense
- Ensure strong nursing representation on state, federal, and other multidisciplinary task forces, advisory boards, working groups, and maternal mortality review teams

- Support initiatives for programs to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and improve the health status of women, as well as policies designed to increase funding to explore issues surrounding social determinants of health and health inequities
- Support initiatives for programs to reduce infant mortality and improve the health status of newborns and preterm newborns, as well as policies designed to increase funding to explore issues surrounding social determinants of health and health inequities
- Support legislation aimed at establishing mandatory federal parental family leave in recognition of the positive impact of family leave on breastfeeding outcomes, parental-child bonding, gender equity, and retainment of women in the workforce
- Support federal efforts to eliminate the scope of practice barriers for advanced practice registered nurses (nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists) to practice to the full extent of their education and training in order to meet the increasing demand for primary care and women's health services
- Support federal efforts that aim to reduce student loan debt burden for nurses, including expanded access to federal aid and decreased tuition costs