

## IONL Board Report – 2023 Annual Legislative Committee Report

### 2023 Indiana Legislative Session

This year was a longer session with the formulation of the state budget. In January the committee came together to form IONL positions on several bills impacting nursing. Throughout the session there was a great focus on the cost of healthcare, implementation of abortion legislation, and passage of transgender care which were the focus of the session. Very few of the bills advancing nursing practice were advanced out of committee.

Legislative wins for the 2023 session were:

- Passage of a bill which amended the definition of "emergency medical services provider" for the offense of battery to include a staff member in the emergency department of a hospital.
- Passage of HB 1460 which included the following:
- Professional and occupational licensing. Provides that the state board of nursing (board) may not require an applicant for a nursing license by endorsement to provide a Social Security number if the applicant can prove that the applicant is in the United States lawfully. Allows a board that regulates a health care provider or a regulated professional under IC 25 to use electronic means of communication to conduct meetings if certain requirements are met. Allows the Indiana department of health (state department) to collect certain information from individuals who provide home health services, are a qualified medication aide, or are a certified nurse aide. Allows the emergency medical services commission (EMS commission) to collect certain information from individuals licensed or certified under the emergency services law. Adds the board of physical therapy, EMS commission, and the state department for purposes of workforce renewal information and an annual report. Establishes time periods for the professional licensing agency (PLA) to post meeting agendas and meeting minutes on the applicable board's website. Requires the PLA to post certain information concerning board vacancies and application forms. Requires that new and renewed licenses with the PLA be submitted electronically, unless a paper application is requested. Requires the PLA to post on its website information about the number of licenses issued and wait times for the licenses. Requires the governor to fill a vacancy on certain occupational boards within 90 days. Allows the affected board to make an appointment to the board if the governor does not make the appointment. Makes various changes to the reciprocity law concerning issuing a license for a health care professional. Allows the board to issue a temporary permit for a registered nurse applicant and a licensed practical nurse applicant. Amends the criteria for certain nursing programs to allow the program to increase enrollment. Requires the state board of health facility administrators to amend certain rules concerning an administrator-in-training (AIT), a health facility administrator (HFA), and a residential care administrator (RCA).
- Several other pieces of legislation were discussed but did not move forward which may be of concern in 2023, including mandated staffing ratios or establishment of staffing committees.

- **Legislative Training in Partnership with AONL**
- This year, in partnership with AONL, we had the opportunity to have IONL members participate in training for Advocacy. Mary Browning and Rachel Culpepper attended and received training.

### **Indiana Coalition for Patient Centered Care**

IONL has continued to support the work that began in 2021 in response to the ISMA position statement on physicians as leaders on the healthcare team. The Indiana Coalition for Patient Centered Care (ICPCC), the group has continued to work this year to organize and solidify membership, bylaws, and board structure along with public communication campaign. IONL as a member organization and has a board seat with Jennifer Funk as the representative.

### **Preparation for Legislative Strategic Plan and 2024 Indiana Legislative Session.**

In the final months of 2021, the committee will come together to complete a strategic plan around Priority #4 and prepare for the 2024 Indiana Legislative Session

Possible Topics that will be focus for the 2024 Legislative session:

- We will remain vigilant in watching for legislation that was proposed last session impacting nurses and nursing practice that did not move forward (e.g. “veterinary nurse” legislation).
- Advocate at the state and federal level for protections for healthcare workers against violence in the workplace.
- Will continue to work to advance scope of practice issues impacting RN and APRN roles across the state.
- Will monitor and formulate position on potential staffing legislation.

We also plan to partner with ISNA to deliver on the day at the statehouse in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason H Gilbert PhD MBA RN

IONL Legislative Chair