



United Nurses Associations of California/ Union of Health Care Professionals

NUHHCE · AFSCME · AFL-CIO

UNAC/UHCP State Legislative Priorities 2009

AB 664 (Nancy Skinner - D) Hospital employee workers' compensation presumption: This legislation provides that back or neck injuries, MRSA, and other blood-borne infectious diseases are presumed under workers compensation to be job related if suffered or contracted by a "hospital employee." (*Assembly Bill Analysis on AB 664*)

Reason for Bill: In the assembly bill analysis, the author of the bill states that this bill is needed for the following reasons: "Registered nurses and hospital workers by the nature of their work, which involves ill patients and medical equipment, are in constant danger of being exposed to a variety of illnesses and becoming injured by lifting and mobilizing patients and by medical equipment. Additionally, blood-borne diseases and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) are contact work related hazards for hospital employees."

UNAC/UHCP Position: *SUPPORT*

AB 849 (Sandre Swanson - D) Family and Medical Leave: 1. Amends the definition of "child" to eliminate references to the age and dependent status of the child. 2) Expands the scope of permissible family and medical leave to include leave to care for a sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or parent-in-law with a serious health condition. 3) Specifies that permissible leave includes leave to care for a domestic partner with a serious health condition. (*Assembly Bill Analysis on AB 840*)

Reason for Bill: According the Assembly bill analysis, supporters argue that this bill is necessary to address the reality of today's familial dynamics, especially in California. California has the second highest percentage of multi-generational households in the country. Nearly half of Californians are single, and their closest relative may be a sibling. Supporters argue that because of the overly narrow definition of family, CFRA currently excludes significant family members from the ability to care for their loved ones. By expanding CFRA to include adult children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, and parents-in-law, we will allow many more California families to have the opportunity to care for one another without jeopardizing their long-term financial security.

UNAC/UHCP Position: *SUPPORT*

AB 1295 (Jean Fuller – R) Postsecondary Education, Nursing Programs: This bill establishes an articulated transfer pathway for nursing programs between California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU) for an Associate Degree in Nursing (AND) students to obtain Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees. (*Assembly Bill Analysis on AB 1295*)

Reason for Bill: The Assembly states that the "California Employment Development Department projects that the state will need approximately 240,000 RNs by 2014. Consequently, California is not keeping pace with the need for nursing faculty. The author notes that at CSU there is little standardization for recognizing ADN curriculum content and crediting a RN with an ADN for that knowledge. The lack of a common transfer pathway results in students having to take duplicative and/or unnecessary coursework that prolongs their time to degree and increases degree costs to both the student and the state."

UNAC/UHCP Position: *SUPPORT*

SB 294 (Gloria Negrete McLeod – D) Nurse Practitioners Scope of Practice: This bill will clarify and codify the NP scope of practice to include: the signing of disability certification for patients who need documentation for their employers; being able to order durable medical equipment; and placing orders for treatment in home care environments. (Senate Bill Analysis on SB 294)

Reason for Bill: California holds more restrictive regulations than any other state on the nurse practitioner (NP) scope of practice. In the Senate bill analysis, the sponsor of the bill write “because ambiguity exists in current law as to what duties may be performed under a standardized procedure, many nurse practitioners experience bureaucratic barriers which then delay consumers access to timely care.”

UNAC/UHCP Position: SUPPORT

SB 360 (Leland Yee – D) Health Facilities and Direct Care Nurses: This legislation would provide that the competency of direct care registered nurses to care for patients in specific units or clinical may only be demonstrated and validated by the direct observation of the orientee by another direct care registered nurse who has previously demonstrated current competency with the relevant patient population, and may not be based on self-assessment. Additionally, this bill would provide that an orientee shall not count as staff for the purposes of meeting minimum nurse-to-patient ratios that otherwise apply. (Senate Bill Analysis on SB 360)

Reason for Bill: In the bill analysis, the author states “that hospitals are relying on inadequate competency validations performed by temporary agencies, contrary to statutory requirements that each hospital perform its own competency validation, which is specific to each clinical area of the hospital.”

UNAC/UHCP Position: SUPPORT

SB 810 (Mark Leno – D) Single Healthcare coverage: This bill establishes the California Healthcare System (CHS) under which all California residents would be eligible for specified health care benefits. The CHS would negotiate or set fees for health care services provided through the system, and pay claims for those services. The bill would also establish various boards and offices, with duties as specified, related to the administration of the system. (Senate Bill Analysis on SB 810)

Reason for Bill: In the bill analysis, the author state that “this bill would provide fiscally sound, affordable health care to all Californians, provide every Californian the right to choose his or her own physician, and control health cost inflation.”

UNAC/UHCP Position: SUPPORT

SB 1 (Darrell Steinberg – D) Healthcare coverage for children: This bill would expand eligibility for the Medi-Cal program and the Healthy Families Program by modifying the requirements applicable to those programs. The bill would require a parent or caretaker relative of a child applying for the Medi-Cal program to sign a specified attestation under penalty of perjury regarding the child's immigration status, as specified, thereby expanding the crime of perjury and imposing a state-mandated local program. (*SB 1 Bill Text*)

UNAC/UHCP Position: SUPPORT