

PROPOSAL RETRACTED ON FLOOR OF HOD 10-5-2007

PROPOSAL 2007-5

Establish an office of Chief Nursing Executive of the State of Nebraska

Subject:

Chief Nursing Executive – State of Nebraska

Proposed by:

Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA), District Three Legislative Committee

Contact Person:

Kathy Corbett, RN, MSN District Three President, Issues Forum

Type of Proposal:

New Action

Rationale:

The position of a Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the State of Nebraska would serve to represent the profession of nursing within and across the State. Considering the current health care crisis, the CNO would heighten the importance of the nursing profession. The recognition of a CNO position would encourage more men and women to enter into nursing to help with the predicted nursing shortage.

Nursing's professional scope of practice centers on issue of health promotion, prevention, education, and advocacy for patients. The National Patient Safety Goals pertain to patients across the continuum of care in all settings. A CNO for the State of Nebraska would ensure that nursing's voice is at the table when programs are planned, implemented and evaluated.

The current healthcare crisis, nursing shortage, safe work environment, and quality initiatives to be mandated by CMS directly impact the work of nursing. Workplace rights, appropriate staffing, workplace safety, and competency need to be addressed at the highest level of the Department of Health & Human Services System. The best representation of these issues should be a nursing executive that assists with review and implementation of all programs across the State.

The position of a State CNO would also support and collaborate with the passage of a National Nurse position, which is a needed position during this time of healthcare crisis, change, and innovation.

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Recommendations:

1. Establish a focus-group to discuss role & responsibilities of a State of Nebraska CNO
2. Work with Nursing Leaders across the State to build an effective program to provide guidance, oversight, and leadership for nursing professionals.

Past House Actions:

None

Relation to NNA's Mission and Vision Statement:

1. Directly relates to NNA's mission to stimulate and promote the professional development of nurses and advance nursing's professional security to promote improvement of health standards and availability of health care services for the people of Nebraska.
2. The CNO position will be an effective voice for nurses and advocate for consumers on issues related to healthcare.
3. Promote quality care that is planned, implemented, evaluated, and improved as necessary.

References:

1. HR4903
2. Department of Health & Human Services System

Proposed Implementation Activities:

1. Collaboration with nursing organizations across the State to create a position-description and qualifications for the CNO of Nebraska.
2. Create a Strategic Plan to ensure fulfillment of the obligations of the CNO
3. Assist with recruitment and hiring of the CNO

Range of Direct Costs:

NNA: Nominal, if any

Funding Available from Alternative Sources:

State Appropriations Funding: \$ 85,000 -100,000 (includes average salary & expenses)