**2017 Ohio Nurses Association Biennial Convention**

**Reference Proposal #5**

**TITLE: Impacting the Future of Healthcare in Ohio and the U.S.**

**SUBMITED BY**: **ONA Board of Directors**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)**

The Ohio Nurses Association will continue to actively engage efforts at the state and national level to impact all decisions regarding the future of healthcare.

ONA will continue to educate nurses on emerging issues that impact nurses and their patients.

**ONA CORE VALUES**

Social Responsibility– ONA will function ethically and contribute to the welfare of the community.

Collaboration –ONA will work jointly with others.

Professionalism – ONA embodies the conduct, aims, and qualities of the profession.

The ONA MISSION is a further rationale for this action: To advance registered nurses, promote professional nursing practice, and advocate for quality health care.

**RATIONALE**

Along with our national affiliates (ANA, AFT, NFN), Ohio Nurses Association joins America’s 3.6 million registered nurses (RNs) who are profoundly committed to ensuring high quality care for all. Nurses provide expert, compassionate care for people through all stages of life and work in every health care setting. As the nation’s largest group of health care professionals and most trusted profession, nurses are the linchpin of the health care delivery system and at the forefront of improving the health of our nation.

In concert with our national affiliates (ANA, AFT), Ohio Nurses Association calls for a comprehensive health care plan that embraces the following principles:

Protect Americans against being denied insurance coverage because of pre-existing conditions and provide access to affordable health insurance coverage plans that offer a minimum standard of benefits including: preventative services and screenings, inpatient and outpatient services, rehabilitative and habilitative services, prescription drug coverage, mental health, maternity services, and chronic disease management.

Promote and support cost-effective preventive health services

Primary health care that is focused on developing an engaged partnership with the patient.

Care coordination services that reduce costs and improve patient outcomes with consistent payment for all qualified health professionals delivering such services, including nurses.

Remove barriers and restrictions that prevent RNs and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) from contributing fully to patient care in all communities. Embrace innovative health delivery models that encourage wellness, prevention, and coordinated care in order to bring down cost and make health insurance affordable for all. Continue to move away from a fee-for service reimbursement model and reward quality care and the effective utilization of resources. Ensure that deductibles and co-payments are not a barrier to receiving care. Eliminate lifetime caps or annual limits on coverage. Incentivize all Americans to purchase insurance coverage - maintaining federal subsidies based on an income-based sliding scale is critical to achieving that goal. Retain coverage for children under the age of 26 under their parent’s insurance. Support the expansion of Medicaid as a safety net for the most vulnerable, including the chronically ill, elderly and poor.

Empower consumers to make informed choices about their healthcare options by making prices and quality metrics more transparent.

Build a workforce that meets the demand of a growing and challenging health care system and population. Encourage workforce development policies to ensure an adequate supply of well-educated, well-distributed registered nurses. Incentivize people to enter primary care through grant and loan repayment programs. Ensure an adequate nursing faculty to support the demand for a robust nurse workforce

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

ONA will be seen as leading voice of nursing in Ohio and in the nation on the national health care plan.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

1. ONA executive and elected leadership engage all conversations where state health system is being discussed.
2. ONA executive and elected leadership engage opportunities for national conversations where health care system is being discussed.
3. Publish articles in the ONR and send up to date information through all ONA communication conduits.
4. Solicit stories from members.
5. Create a CE program for the Ohio Nurses Review on this.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

$1000.00

* $300.00 - Honorarium
* $200.00 - Staff time
* $500.00 - Advertising

DISCLOSURE: Be advised that the financial impact of all reference proposals is the cost of implementing reference proposals is incorporated into existing ONA and/or ONF work and initiatives; reference proposals are not line items within the budget.