



For immediate release:

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This week, CA Governor Gavin Newsom released a new executive order N-39-20 and announced the establishment of healthcorps.ca.gov. These measures will help to ensure an adequate supply of frontline healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic and recruit additional caregivers via a centralized portal.

We appreciate the relaxation of regulations in terms of DCA waivers for RNs renewing their license and the for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses amidst the ongoing provider shortage. NPs practice independently with no physician supervision in 23 states and are prolific in the California health system. Relaxing scope of practice restrictions in whatever manner possible temporarily during the pandemic will allow APRNs to fill a critical resource need and practice to the full extent of their education and certification while continuing to provide high quality, safe patient care.

Safe nurse staffing contributes to better patient outcomes and is essential in a well-functioning healthcare system. While understanding the need for flexibility regarding nurse-patient assignments during the COVID-19 pandemic, clear guidance is needed on the details regarding how this flexibility can be provided without compromising patient care or nurse safety.

We support the safe and thought-out utilization of nursing students as caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Majority of nursing students in California have been left without clinical hours due to hospital restrictions and extending the ability to contribute to the state-wide COVID-19 response will provide a key resource while also allowing them to continue their education. We appreciate California Board of Registered Nursing efforts in creating necessary waivers and call upon them to allow nursing programs needed flexibility to deliver sims education during these challenging times to assure students' academic progression. We will continue to collaborate with other organizations in establishing implementation strategies for healthcare organizations to utilize these students to their full potential.

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