



**March 21, 2020**

Dear CNSA Members,

The State Board would like to offer our support to you in this time of uncertainty. We are aware that most of you have experienced changes to your nursing education; instruction has been altered to an online format, our participation at clinical sites has been denied, and graduations have been postponed.

The requirements to graduate are outlined by the California Nursing Practice Act CCR Section 1426 (g)(2) which states that students must complete 75% of their required clinical hours in direct care and a maximum of 25% in simulation. Although individual institutions are responsible for determining how course objectives are specifically met, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) enforces this requirement. Our educators are faced with challenges in adhering to this regulation while accommodating for all the changes that have come about due to COVID-19. We stand with nurse leaders, educators, and students in seeking assistance in adapting to this new normal.

We recognize the frustration caused by these circumstances and have taken steps to ensure we are advocating on your behalf. The Board of Directors for CNSA has urged Governor Gavin Newsom to take action and mandate the changes communicated to the BRN. The changes have been reflected in the following statement to the BRN.

To the California Board of Registered Nursing:

“On behalf of the 6,070 nursing students we represent in the state of California, we are writing to address the issue of clinical hours that have been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with recommendations set forth by government institutions, nursing schools across the country have closed for in-person instruction but have maintained online classes in an attempt to keep students on track for graduation. Additionally, healthcare institutions have denied students’ access to clinical placements indefinitely. The largest concern facing us and the healthcare industry is having a competent nursing workforce that is able to provide for our communities in the anticipated times of heightened need. Currently, over 27,000 nursing students and the institutions they attend are at a standstill because of the California Nursing Practice Act CCR Section 1426 (g)(2) mandating that 75% of clinical hours be performed in a direct care setting. We ask that you consider a temporary emergency measure granting flexibility and trust to our educational institutions. This will allow them to make the

necessary changes to meet course objectives and allow our future nurses the opportunity to enter the workforce without delay.

A majority of the students we have been in contact with mimic the same sentiment; we are willing to engage in any form of simulation or online education approved by our institutions and accreditation agencies to meet program objectives. Under these circumstances and as we collectively experience a global health crisis, we ask that you enact the temporary changes in regulation immediately.”

As the situation evolves, we will provide updates and hope to bring clarity to us all. Please know that you can reach out to us for information, guidance, and to advocate on your behalf. Questions can be directed to [info@cnsa.org](mailto:info@cnsa.org).

We wish you and your loved ones health and patience during this unprecedented time.

Warm Regards,

The Board of Directors, California Nursing Students' Association