

## POSITION STATEMENT TRUSTWORTHY NURSING LICENSURE

### NURSING LICENSURE

In January 2023, the United States Department of Justice identified multiple schools of nursing engaged in a fraudulent scheme selling 7,600 fake diplomas and transcripts at the cost of \$15,000 per student. The recipients of the fraudulent diplomas were allowed to sit for the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) testing for RN and LPN/LVN licensure without completing a Board of Nursing-approved or nationally nursing-accredited RN or Vocational Nurse program. These falsely-licensed individuals secured employment in U.S. healthcare facilities. State Nursing Boards have ordered these schools to pause enrollments and graduations and have informed graduates of these programs to surrender their licenses.

### Untrained Nurses at the Bedside are a National Health Crisis!

Nursing has been regarded as the most trusted profession in the country for more than two decades for good reasons—nurses save lives daily! Nurses undergo rigorous didactic and clinical training to gain complex skills and competency. Obtaining a state license without the requisite knowledge and skills validation jeopardizes patient safety and destroys the public's trust.

### Nursing School Accreditation & Regulation Matters.

With the mission to protect the public, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) uses the Nursing Practice Act to regulate nursing education, licensure, practice, and discipline. Through the accreditation process, nursing education programs are held accountable to meet strict state and national standards and ensure that a nurse will qualify for the NCLEX and can safely practice as a nurse. This stringent process in California helps prevent unethical nursing programs.

### ACNL Encourages all Nurses to Speak Up for Safety.

- Report known or suspected programs offering unrealistic expectations.
- Inform the BRN and BVN of issues affecting California RN and LVN education and practice.
- Get involved in a professional nursing organization.
- Provide public comment at an upcoming BRN meeting.

### The Role of Nurses & Professional Practice.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses are THE guiding principles for the practice of nursing, giving authority and holding nurses accountable and responsible for quality nursing care consistent with the ethical obligation of this profession. Therefore, nursing schools and nursing students are held accountable to the same four principles of autonomy, beneficence, justice, and non-maleficence. Provision 9 of the Code in particular, provides guidance to this issue: ***The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy*** (ANA, 2015, p. v)

### ACNL Advises Students on Steps in Selecting a Nursing School.

- Research which school is best for you. Avoid high-pressure admittance schemes. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Ask the nursing school's admission department the following questions.
  - Does the school provide clinical sites for the required number of hours?
  - Do they have a clinical affiliation agreement with the clinical sites in the student's geographical area?
  - Do they offer simulation labs?
  - How often are students required to be on campus?
  - What is the on-time graduation rate?
  - What are the school's first-time NCLEX pass rates?
  - What are the attrition and retention rates of the students?
  - Is the program accredited, and does the BRN approve the program?
  - Does the cost of the program make sense compared to other programs?

American Nurses Association (2015). Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements. American Nurses Association. [www.Nursingworld.org](http://www.Nursingworld.org)

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