

February 19, 2019

The Honorable Tony Evers
Wisconsin Governor
115 E Capitol # 1,
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) and the Administrators of Nursing Education in Wisconsin (ANEW) Boards of Directors we want to share our appreciation to you for creating a Task Force on Caregiving in Wisconsin.

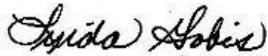
The nursing care delivered by registered nurses in Wisconsin's health care settings are dependent upon the availability of caregivers to support their practice. The quality and competence of caregivers requires education, training, direction and support provided by RNs. We are hearing from our members that the caregiver shortages are requiring RNs to come in on their days off and be assigned to perform caregiver duties because of the shortage. These instances are resulting in increased labor costs for the employer, i.e. RN vs. caregiver salary, and RN dissatisfaction with their job. Nurses want to work at the level of education for which they are prepared.

ANEW and WNA want to make you aware that Wisconsin is facing a nurse educator shortage. The demand for nurses exceeds the capacity of schools of nursing to admit. Individuals wanting to become nurses are met by waiting lists due to faculty shortages. One factor that is creating caregiver shortages is the shortage of qualified nursing instructors. We have submitted a budgetary request to be included in your budget to support the recruitment and retention of nurse faculty.

WNA and ANEW respectfully request that you appoint one of our members to serve on your Task Force. We believe that we can provide support to your Task Force. We have members who possess the knowledge, experience and expertise in caring for at-risk patient populations and supporting the informal caregiver.

We thank you again, Governor Evers, for your leadership and understanding of the important role that caregivers have in supporting the health of Wisconsin's most frail population. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions by contacting Gina Dennik-Champion, WNA Executive Director at 608-228-3300. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Linda Gobis, RN, MN, JD
WNA President



Linda Young, Ph.D., RN, CNE, CFLE
ANEW President