



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

I will frame my comments on the social determinants of health around education – specifically, the health of nursing education in Illinois and the health of students, nurses, and faculty committed to seamless academic progression.

Illinois deans and directors of associate degree programs and baccalaureate and higher degree programs collaborated for 2 years to establish a solution to increase the educational preparedness of nurses. The results were published by the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) and by the Illinois Center for Nursing and centered on a commitment to seamless progression by establishing a standardized associate degree curriculum, strengthening articulation agreements, and promoting early dual degree enrollment.

We affirmed we need community colleges to continue offering ADN degrees as well as to strengthen their focus on bridging CNAs to LPNs and LPNs to ADNs. We need 4 year institutions of higher learning to continue offering BSNs. Illinois is challenged, though, by legislators who disregard the recommendations nurses have made about nursing, and who introduce bills to allow community colleges to offer the BSN. Illinois has an adequate number of in seat and online opportunities to increase the educational preparation of nurses to obtain a minimum of a BSN degree. BSNs should be offered only by colleges and universities, and not by community colleges.

My respectful request is for the National Academy of Medicine Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 to devote attention to seamless academic progression and the importance of community colleges and 4 year universities to partner to achieve a non-duplicative and high quality solution to increasing the educational preparation of nurses.

Sincerely,

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