28th National Black Nurses’ Day on Capitol Hill

Theme: “Addressing the Epidemic of Violence: NBNA’s Call to Action”

Addressing the Epidemic of Violence: NBNA’s Call to Action Focused on Violence Reduction

The National Black Nurses Association supports comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence and its devastating effect on communities of color. NBNA calls on the 114th Congress to address gun violence as a leading public health epidemic that negatively impacts the health and well-being of all communities. Moreover, gun violence disproportionately impacts the physical, mental, and social well-being of the black community.

Background:

Multifaceted and comprehensive measures are sorely needed to reverse the following outcomes:

- In 2015, gun violence is projected to surpass motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of deaths for Americans under age 25. (Kelly report)
- Each year 100,000 Americans fall victim to gun violence resulting in approximately 30,000 deaths and 10,000 injuries. (Kelly report)
- While gun violence affects all communities in the United States, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on young adults, males, and racial ethnic minorities. (APHA)
- Among those 10-29, homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Whites, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics and the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Blacks. (APHA)

Recommendations to Legislators:

- NBNA recognizes that a multifaceted and comprehensive approach is needed to effectively address this epidemic.
- NBNA supports current recommendations from the American Public Health Association requesting common sense measures to reduce gun violence namely but not limited to:
  1. Requiring and strengthening criminal background checks for all firearm purchases, including all firearms sold at gun shows and on the internet (H.R. 3411).
  2. Providing adequate and unrestricted funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other scientific agencies to research the causes of gun violence and develop prevention measures.
  3. Expanding the collection and analysis of data related to gun violence and other violent deaths by increasing the funding for CDC’s National Violence Death Reporting System.

References:

American Public Health Association (APHA) Gun Violence Prevention Facts

Gun Violence in America Report
## Small Sampling of Gun Violence Bills Introduced in 2015 - 114th Congressional Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill/Resolution (s)</th>
<th>Introduced By</th>
<th>Provisions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 39026 - Gun Violence Research Act of 2015</td>
<td>Rep. Michael Honda (D-CA)</td>
<td>To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a better understanding of the epidemic of gun violence</td>
<td>Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on 11/4/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.Res. 289</td>
<td>Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)</td>
<td>Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that: (1) gun violence is a public health issue; and (2) Congress should expand enforceable background checks for all commercial gun sales, improve the mental health system, and make gun trafficking and straw purchasing a federal crime.</td>
<td>Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on 6/16/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.1977 - Gun Violence Intervention Act of 2015</td>
<td>Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)</td>
<td>A bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence.</td>
<td>Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on 8/5/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 3830 - Reducing Gun Violence in our Neighborhoods Act of 2015</td>
<td>Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)</td>
<td>To reduce gun violence, increase mental health counseling, and enhance the tracking of lost and stolen firearms.</td>
<td>Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 10/20/15</td>
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1. Source: [https://congress.gov](https://congress.gov)
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2016 Reauthorization of Title VIII Nurse Education and Training Act

NBNA requests expanding and increased funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs contained in the Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. Specifically, NBNA requests expanding federal appropriations to support professional nursing education and nurse faculty loan repayment programs.

Background:

The Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act), enacted in 1964, was created in response to a shortage of health care providers.

- **Title VIII** programs focus on training advanced practice nurses, increasing the number of minority and disadvantaged students enrolling in nursing programs, and improving nurse retention through career development and improved patient care systems.

- **Title VIII** programs provide the largest source of federal funding specifically for nursing education and supports all levels of nursing education from entry level through graduate study.

- Support for **Title VIII** programs is essential to ensure the demand for nursing care is met and that consumers receive efficient and effective health care services.

Recommendations to Legislators:

- Expand federal appropriations that will support professional nursing education and address the need for a highly educated nursing workforce

- NBNA along with members of the Nursing Community, a coalition of 61 national professional nursing associations, requested in FY 2016 $244 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. > 296 et seq]). NBNA respectfully requests increased funding for FY 2017.

References

Testimony of the Nursing Community for HRSA Support


AACN Information on 2016 Funding for Nursing Education and Research

http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/appropriations
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“Integration of Behavioral Health with Population Health Management”

The National Black Nurses Association supports the primary model of care integrating mental health with population health management. While NBNA recognizes that persons with serious mental illness commit a small proportion of firearm-related homicides however, individuals with predisposing tendencies toward violence face numerous barriers to receiving mental health services. NBNA calls on the 114th Congress to support the integration of behavioral health with population health management when addressing gun violence as a leading public health epidemic.

Background:

- The overwhelming majority of people with mental illness do not engage in violence towards others however, individuals whose mental illness places them at risk for violence face tremendous barriers to mental health treatment.¹
- Mental conditions such as conduct disorders and antisocial personality disorders are linked with an increased risk for violence.¹
- Substance abuse, a form of mental disorder, is a risk factor for violence in the general population and among persons with serious mental illness.¹
- Suicide is associated with 61% of all firearm fatalities.¹
- An overwhelming majority (90%) of persons who commit suicide have symptoms of mental disorders.¹

Recommendation for Legislators:

- NBNA supports the integration of behavioral health with population health management as part of a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to reduce firearm related violence.
- NBNA supports current recommendations from the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Care beginning with screening of all patients for health issues and include assessments and treatment for behavioral health and substance use conditions.²
- NBNA requests funding and support for the integration of a patient-centered care team providing evidence-based treatments for behavioral health and substance use conditions.
- NBNA requests funding for hospitals treating victims of violence to provide trauma-sensitive care and conduct follow-up care to address the physical and emotional toll of the trauma providing resources in the behavioral health integrated network.

References

Other Resources

Small, L. (2014) What healthcare providers can do to prevent violence?


Kaiser family Foundation Integrating Physical and Behavioral Health

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The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, or ACA). One of the main purposes of the law is to ensure that all Americans have access to quality health care. The National Black Nurses Association supports implementation of the Affordable Care Act and calls on the 114th Congress to continue efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to quality health care.

Brief Background - Expanding Access to Health Care:

- The ACA increases access to health care, in part, by expanding Medicaid eligibility and extending Medicaid to nearly all nonelderly adults with incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level ($27,724 for family of three in 2015).
- Since implementation, differences in uninsurance rates have narrowed for black adults compared to their white counterparts. Since 2013, the uninsured rate has declined 9.2 percentage points for African Americans, resulting in 2.3 million adults gaining coverage.
- Still blacks remain disproportionately impacted by coverage gaps in states opting not to expand Medicaid.
- As of September 2015 thirty (30) states and DC, have adopted the expansion while 20 states have not adopted the expansion. A large proportion of uninsured Black adults reside in southern regions where most states have not adopted the expansion (Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, 2015)

Please visit: http://kff.org/state-health-marketplace-profiles/ for more on states and Medicaid expansion.

Recommendations to Legislators:

States who are participating in Medicaid Expansion
- NBNA applauds states for expanding Medicaid coverage and requests that Congress support Medicaid expansion in all states.

States who are not participating in Medicaid Expansion
- NBNA applauds states for expanding Medicaid coverage and requests that Congress support Medicaid expansion in all states.
- The Medicaid expansion offers an important opportunity to increase coverage among low-income adults who are people of color, a population who disproportionately lacks health insurance and experience poor health outcomes.
Increasing health coverage rates is critical to ensuring better access to needed care and making progress in reducing the persistent and well-documented health disparities.

**Brief Background – Moving Prevention and Wellness to Mainstream Healthcare:**

- The ACA created the Prevention and Public Health Fund to increase public health efforts on local and state levels, bolster public health capacity and enhance prevention and public health research tracking.
- Prevention of chronic conditions saves lives and reduces health care cost. Approximately 75% of health care spending is devoted to treating preventable chronic conditions e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity; only 3% of health care spending is devoted to prevention and public health.

**Recommendations to Legislators:**

- NBNA requests that Congress work to ensure adequate funding for broader implementation of the ACA and related provisions devoted to expanding access to health care, strengthening consumer protections, promoting prevention and wellness and ensuring a more diverse health care workforce.
- The NBNA urges Congress to strengthen investments in Public Health by maintaining allocated funding levels for the Prevention and Public Health Fund and intensifying efforts to improve and protect the health and well-being of all communities.

**References for Medicaid Expansion**


References for the ACA and Public Health

States and Public Health

Affordable Care Act Prevention Provisions
https://www.apha.org/~/media/files/pdf/topics/aca/aca_overview_aug2012.ashx

Prevention and Public Health Fund
https://www.apha.org/~/media/files/pdf/topics/aca/2015_pphf_fact_sheet.ashx