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## CONNECTICUT NURSES' ASSOCIATION WORKING TO ASSURE ADEQUATE STAFFING AND POSITIVE WORK ENVIRONMENTS AS KEY TO ADDRESSING THE CURRENT CRISIS AFFECTING NURSES.

(East Berlin, Connecticut) – Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) is at the forefront in addressing and working on solutions to promote a positive working environment for nurses that includes adequate staffing and assures patients receive the highest quality of care.

"Regardless of specialty area or practice setting, nurses share similar sentiments about the workplace - they feel overwhelmed, burnt out, and stressed. Inadequate staffing, inflexible work environments, and workplace violence lead to low morale and ultimately contribute to high levels of nurses leaving the profession after a short time at the bedside. COVID has exacerbated these long standing issues in healthcare, and nurses are demanding solutions" states Kimberly Sandor, Executive Director of CT Nurses Association.

*CT Nurses Association President, Sue Goncalves,* stated "Nurses are leaving bedside care positions not because they don't love nursing but because they are conflicted about the burdens placed on them. A focus on retention of the existing nursing workforce is needed. Nurses are the constant at the bedside to provide quality care and support positive outcomes for patients. Urgently exploring innovative solutions to recruitment, retention, healthy and safe workplace environments is needed. Nurses deserve the same respect and dignity that the profession delivers tirelessly to their patients, families, organizations and society"

Nurses are demanding that leaders in institutions and in government act to address staffing. This is a multi-factorial problem and solutions must include policies that assure adequate staffing, that nurses have a role in staffing decisions, that workplaces support the highest level of quality patient care and a positive work environment for nurses and all health care professionals. Connecticut Nurses Association recognizes that staffing ratios are used by hospitals, and are one piece of this complex problem and we stand ready to support nurses to assure that all are able to practice safely. Doing so means that patients receive the highest quality of care.

"The Connecticut Nurses Association diligently supports nurses and continues to work with policymakers, agency officials, the Governor, and all stakeholders to assure that the focus is on finding comprehensive, effective ways to overcome the challenges that nurses face," stated Kimberly Sandor.

## ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT NURSES ASSOCIATION

The Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA) is the professional nursing association founded in 1904. Its mission is to advance the nursing profession and promote health in Connecticut through advocacy, professional development, knowledge generation, communication, and service. The CNA serves nurses in all specialty areas and practice settings.