The Importance of the Ontario Nurses’ Association for nurses

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In the midst of a global pandemic the integral role nurses hold in society is highlighted. The core values of individual and professional competency, integrity, compassion and human dignity are conveyed everyday - whether that be during a pandemic or not.

The Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) established in 1973, fosters a respectful environment for nurses where these key values can be upheld. This mission is facilitated by advocating for nurses through the representation of their voice encompassing 68,000 registered nurses and health care professionals along with 18,000 nursing students. This ensures that nurses are supported economically and professionally to provide optimal care for all patients.

My mom has been a nurse for 33 years working primarily in psychiatry and mental health. My mom values ONA as a unique union serving a consistent presence. ONA has always offered transparent communication with an abundance of energy and engagement to inform members and work towards resolutions, common goals and negotiations to serve the best interest of nurses.

Currently, ONA is advocating for: the exemption of nurses and health care professionals from Bill 124 to ensure non-gender discrimination and free collective bargaining, more full-time positions for registered nurses in long term care homes during COVID-19, COVID funds, phasing out privatization of long term care homes, proper access to PPE, adequate training for nurses, reduction of lost wages during COVID-19, support for care coordinators, elimination of cuts to public health and spreading awareness on the workplace violence that occurs in health care.

When attending McMaster University to acquire a nursing degree, I feel grateful to embark on a career that poses rewarding opportunities, but also challenges. However, I understand the undeniable support I will receive from the Ontario Nurses Association when these challenges arise.