

## **The Importance of The Ontario Nurses' Association for Nurses**

Nurses today need advocacy. Today more than ever, nurses need the same passion and tenacity in which they promote wellness and advocacy for their clients. The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) plays an enormous role in advocacy, support, and wellbeing.

Nurses this year have faced ongoing stress, compassion fatigue, and moral burnout due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the burning coattails of COVID-19 is Bill 124, set forth by Ontario's Conservative leader, Premier Doug Ford. On election day, I witnessed the already exhausted nursing community breathe a heavy sigh. With so much uncertainty for the future of healthcare and nurses alike, nurses rely on ONA for their energetic approach to fighting these battles. ONA is an imperative team not only fighting for nurses' rights to negotiate, obtain pay equality, and workplace safety; they also fight for dignity, respect, and fairness for all.

As a second-year nursing student, I am proactive and passionate about the future of nursing. I join in advocating for "equity, respect and fairness" (The Ontario Nurses' Association [ONA], 2022, para.1) alongside my nursing family, friends, and fellow community. ONA takes the pressure off of nurses alone and gives them hope. Nurses can follow the light of ONA as they lead them to their goals. Together we are the future of nursing.

### **References**

The Ontario Nurses' Association. (2022). *About bill 124 and actions*. [www.ona.org/about-bill-124/](http://www.ona.org/about-bill-124/). Retrieved June 23, 2022, from <https://www.ona.org/about-bill-124/>