Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Tempe, Arizona

The Arizona Nurses Association (AZNA) recognizes that nurses are key stakeholders in the healthcare community and take very seriously our responsibility to advocate for public health and the health of all citizens. We also recognize that the opioid crisis has reached epidemic proportions and affects all communities, all income levels and all walks of life.

The opioid crisis is a complex problem that requires comprehensive solutions. AZNA has provided leadership and its voice in meetings with the executive branch, government regulators, legislators and other health care stakeholder groups in our Arizona community.

On Monday, January 24th Governor Ducey called a 1-week “special session” (a period when the AZ Legislature convenes outside of the normal legislative session) and introduced legislation that addressed several aspects of the opioid problem including prescribing limitations, community and medical education, law enforcement involvement, and access to medication assisted treatment (MAT). The laws being proposed are unprecedented for the health care community and AZNA has spent many hours providing input regarding the impact of this legislation on patients and nurses. Over the past 2 days our talented lobbying team (with input from our AzNA Public Policy team) has advocated for the inclusion of nurses in vital medication assisted treatment, the elimination of barriers to treatment and when necessary, urged words of caution to prevent unintended consequences.

AZNA is pleased to announce its support of the opioid legislation. We look forward to working with the health care community, government regulators, law enforcement, patients and their families to continue to move forward to address this urgent and important issue. We expect the opioid bill to pass through the legislature and be signed into law by the governor within the next few days.

###

For more information, please contact info@aznurse.org or call 480.831.0404