

PASADENA STAR-NEWS
OPINION

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Loud voice, little body

I must agree nursing has indeed come a long way. Unfortunately all those strides have not necessarily been positive. For example nurses went from being a "doctor's handmaiden" to being used as political fodder by the unions — in this case the California Nurses Association (CNA).

The CNA takes credit getting so-called safe nurse/patient ratio legislation passed, however they fail to explain that there was no enforcement provisions in this bill. At present they are lobbying Sacramento legislators to write a companion enforcement bill. I think that getting the first bill signed was more of a political maneuver for the governor and a recruitment tool (the influx of dues were a strong motivation) for the CNA.

The CNA has gotten away with a lot by advertising that they are the "voice" of the California nurse, when this is far from true. At present there are almost 300,000 active registered nurses in California, the CNA has a membership of 50,000, as per the CNA's statement — so they represent a mere one-eighth of active registered nurses. This hardly qualifies them to represent themselves as "the voice" of California nurses.

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