



## **POSITION STATEMENT ON NON-PUNITIVE REPORTING OF ERRORS** *Embracing the Use of Just Culture and Transparency in Error Reporting*

The Oklahoma Nurses Association is aligned with the American Nurses Association and expresses concern regarding the criminalization of medical errors against nurses and other healthcare professionals. The complexity of health care systems has long been recognized by the Institute of Medicine. In the landmark study, *To Err is Human*, several recommendations outline strategies to make systems safer in a just culture. The first step involves reporting medical errors in full transparency so that deep analysis can reveal opportunities for improvement. Without a culture that supports open transparency, silencing of errors may occur and create an environment where opportunities to mitigate or prevent harm are not identified.

ONA supports the implementation of safety systems to foster reporting, learning and a culture of trust. These systems should include the development of processes that support the improvement of patient care. This includes the involvement of direct care nurses at all levels to be a part of the development of system changes that enhance the quality of patient care across the continuum.

*Approved by the ONA Board of Directors, April 2, 2022*