

Advancing the Nursing Profession through the National Legislative Arena

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April 7, 2009



“The power of the nursing profession was dependent upon its ability to maintain the cooperation of individual nurses who had the ability to influence public opinion.”

Sophia F. Palmer (February, 1895) during second annual convention.



Why Get Involved

“There is no political gain in
silence and submission.”

Ms. Sidney Abbott
American Author

Core Issues Faced by the Nursing Profession

- ❑ Nursing Shortage
- ❑ Appropriate Staffing
- ❑ Workplace Health & Safety
- ❑ Patient Safety & Advocacy

Multi-pronged approach

Legislative strategies to:

- ❑ Increase recruitment
- ❑ Increase school capacity
- ❑ Improve the workplace / Increase Retention

Current ANA Legislative Initiatives

Recruitment

- Title VIII Funding Recruitment

Retention

- Prohibition of Mandatory Overtime
- Safe Staffing

Patient Advocacy

- Provider choice / access – APRN legislation - HSR

Title VIII Funding

Nurse Reinvestment Act

(P.L. 107-205) August 2002

- Reauthorized some Nursing Workforce Development Programs w/in Title VIII of the PHS
- Expands loan repayments and establishes scholarships for nurses who work in a facility with “critical nursing shortage”
- Nurse Retention and Patient Safety Enhancement Grants (Magnet criteria). Promotes RN Involvement.
- Geriatric training grants to support educators and nursing students.

Nurse Reinvestment Act also ...

- ❑ Nursing faculty loan cancellation program for masters and doctoral students who commit to working as full-time faculty upon the completion of their degree.
- ❑ Career ladder program to establish partnerships between health facilities and schools of nursing to support nurses and nurses aides.
- ❑ More information:
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing>

Nurse Reinvestment Act Funding

The nursing community....

- ❑ recognizes that current funding levels are too low.
- ❑ is asking for \$215 million in funding for fiscal year (FY) 2010.



Nurse Reinvestment Act Funding

- FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations increased by \$15 M to 171 million
- President's Stimulus Package increased funding for workforce programs by \$500 million. (200 M for Title VII & Title VIII).

Retention Efforts

- Prohibition of mandatory overtime
- Safe RN staffing
- SPHM – mandatory regulations

Mandatory Overtime

Nurses' risks of making an error increase significantly when:

- Working longer than 12 hours
 - Working overtime
 - Working more than 40 hours a week
- Ann E. Rogers, Health Affairs, Jul./Aug. 2004

Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act

- Uses Medicare Law to place very strict limits on the use of mandatory overtime.
- Overtime is defined as any requirement that a nurse work in excess of the regularly scheduled work shift or duty period.
- Nurse cannot be required to work more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period or 80 hours in a consecutive 14-day period
- Exception for declared states of emergency.

RN Safe Staffing

- ❑ Various approaches:
 - ratios
 - plans
 - reporting
- ❑ ANA supports empowering direct care nurses via a staffing committee to determine staffing needs, establish plans and policy for adjustments

RN Safe Staffing

ANA does support ratios, just not fixed ratios mandated at Federal level.

Staffing levels should be adjustable based upon:

- patient acuity
- staff experience, training & skill mix
- available technology and other resources

Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act

- Based on ANA's Staffing Principles
- Uses Medicare Conditions of Participation
- Requires establishment of upwardly adjustable unit-by-unit staffing levels in coordination with direct care nurses, and based on each unit's unique needs.

ANA Believesstaffing plans

- Be created with input from direct-care RNs or their designated representative;
- Be based on the number of patients and patient acuity level, with consideration given to patient admissions, discharges and transfers on each shift;
- Reflect the level of preparation and experience of those providing care;
- Reflect staffing levels recommended by specialty nursing organizations; and
- Provide that an RN not be forced to work in a particular unit without having first established that he or she is able to provide professional care on such a unit.

RN Safe Staffing Act

- Requires public reporting of staffing information.
- Provides whistleblower protection
- Holds hospitals accountable: Establishes procedures for receiving and investigating complaints including civil monetary penalties which can be imposed for knowing violations.

Patient Advocacy through Access and Choice

Home Health

S. 1678 / H.R. 6826 (110th Congress)

- Authorize nurse practitioners to certify home health services & sign plans of care
- Authorize nurse practitioners to certify for hospice care

ANA is Also Seeking

- Recognition for APRNs
 - as PCP in “medical homes”
 - for e-prescribing – gained in 2008

Health System Reform:

- Urgent attention needed, *stat!*
- ANA supports guaranteed, high-quality, affordable health care for all.

ANA's Reform Agenda:

- Access...
- Quality...
- Cost...
- **WORKFORCE!**



To the White House:

ANA tells Obama team:

- **Include workforce in health system reform**
- **Increase funds for nursing workforce programs**
- **Address safe staffing, safe patient handling, APRNs**



To the White House:

ANA is invited to participate in:

- **President Obama's Fiscal Responsibility Summit**
- **President Obama's Forum on Health Care Reform**



White House Regional Forums

- Conversations directly to communities
- Invitational
- MI, VT, IA NC CA
- Had ANA CMA representatives at all forums across the country

HSR Hill

- Sen. Baucus – MT
- Sen. Kennedy – MA
- Hearings
- Negotiate language
- House late start

Partnering to Achieve Reform:

- “Divided We Fall”
- Health Care First
- Health Care for America Now!
- Herndon Alliance
- Wye River Group
- Health Reform Dialogue

ANA Grassroots Resources and Programs

- **Nurses Strategic Action Team (N-STAT)**: *Grassroots* network notifies subscribers when to take grassroots action to support ANA goals.
- **Nurse Political Action Leaders (N-PAL)**: *Grass tops* network of ANA members who have personal connection with their legislator.

An Advocates best friend – the Internet

- ANA Government Affairs Website:
www.anapoliticalpower.org
- ANA Online Legislative Newsletter:
educates readers about ANA efforts to advance nursing on the federal and state level. www.capitolupdate.org

Other Useful Websites



www.nursingworld.org

www.patientsrightscoalition.org

Library of Congress = thomas.loc.gov

Thank you

