# **APRN ADVOCACY**

Beyond the Bedside

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#### Objectives

- Define Nurse Advocacy
- Define the legislative process from concept to law
- Describe factors the influence legislation and support effective advocacy
- Review resources for policy
- Review current legislation impacting APRN's and patients

### What is advocacy?

# The act or process of advocating or supporting a cause or proposal

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/advocacy

#### What is nurse advocacy?

- Code of Ethics for Nurses
  - Provision 7.3: Contributions through Nursing and Health Policy Development.
    - Nurses must lead, serve, and mentor on institutional or agency policy committees within the practice setting.
  - Provision 9.4: Professional nursing organizations must actively engage in the political process, particularly in addressing legislative and regulatory concerns....

(American Nurses Association, Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive statements, 2015)

#### Where does nurse advocacy start?

- With the patient!
  - Nurses advocate at the bedside
  - Nurses advocate for patients at the institution level
  - Nurse advocate for patients through insurance
  - Nurses advocate for patients at the governmental level

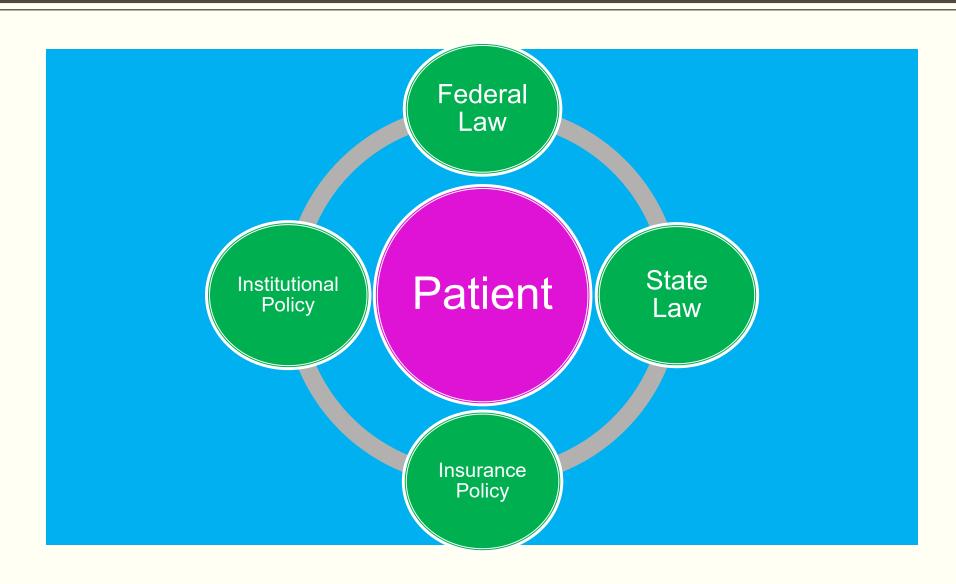
Nurse truly are professional advocates

#### Why Advocate?

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



## Why should I get involved?



#### **Nursing Impact**

#### GALLUP<sup>®</sup>

DECEMBER 26, 2017

#### Nurses Keep Healthy Lead as Most Honest, Ethical Profession

by Megan Brenan

#### Story Highlights

- · Nurses outpace 21 other professions on honesty and ethics rating
- . Clergy have declined to lowest historical positive rating of 42%
- · Largest partisan gaps on police officers, newspaper reporters

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- For the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Americans' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of 22 occupations finds nurses at the top of the list. More than eight in 10 (82%) Americans describe nurses' ethics as "very high" or "high." In contrast, about six in 10 Americans rate members of Congress (60%) and lobbyists (58%) as "very low" or "low" when it comes to honesty and ethical standards.

Americans' Ratings of Honesty and Ethical Standards in Professions

Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields — very high, high, average, low, or very low?

|                       | Very high/High | Average | Very low/Low |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|                       | 96             | %       | %            |
| Nurses                | 82             | 16      | 2            |
| Military officers     | 71             | 24      | 3            |
| Grade school teachers | 66             | 27      | 5            |
| Medical doctors       | 65             | 31      | 4            |
| Pharmacists           | 62             | 32      | 6            |
| Police officers       | 56             | 32      | 12           |
| Day care providers    | 46             | 43      | 7            |

http://news.gallup.com/poll/224639/nurses-keep-healthy-lead-honest-ethical-profession.aspx?version=print

#### **Nursing Impact**

- American Nurses Association
  - "...advocacy is a pillar of nursing. Nurses instinctively advocate for their patients, in their workplaces, and in their communities; but legislative and political advocacy is no less important to advancing the profession and patient care.
- Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing Report: Leading Change Advancing Health (2010)
  - "Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States"

### How do I get involved?

- Learn about the policymaking process
- Learn how a bill becomes a law
- Learn about our government
- Join a professional organization
  - Contribute to a political action committee (PAC)

# THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



# The Legislative Process: Other things to consider...



- Leadership
  - Who are the current leaders?
  - What are their interests?
- Resources and support
- Relationships
- Timing
  - Is the climate right to ask for a policy change?
  - Is the time right to introduce new legislation?

# The Legislative Process: Problem Identified- Now what?

- Formulating Policy Proposals
  - Proposals can come from
    - policy-planning organizations
    - interest groups
    - government bureaucracies
    - state legislatures
    - President
    - Congress





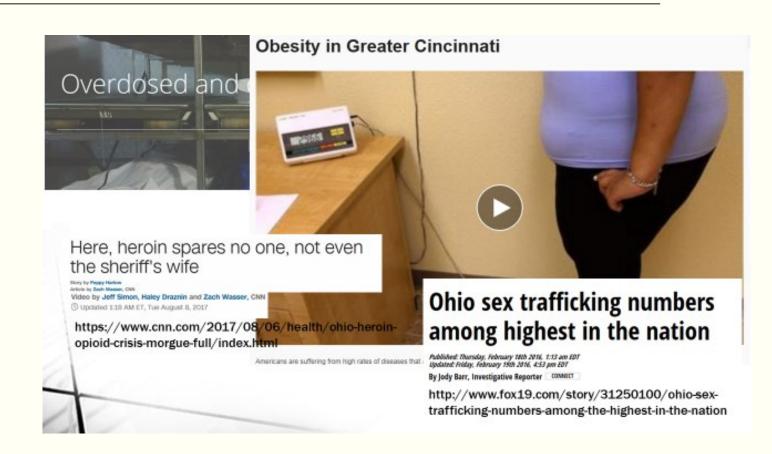






## The Legislative Process: Legitimizing Public Policy

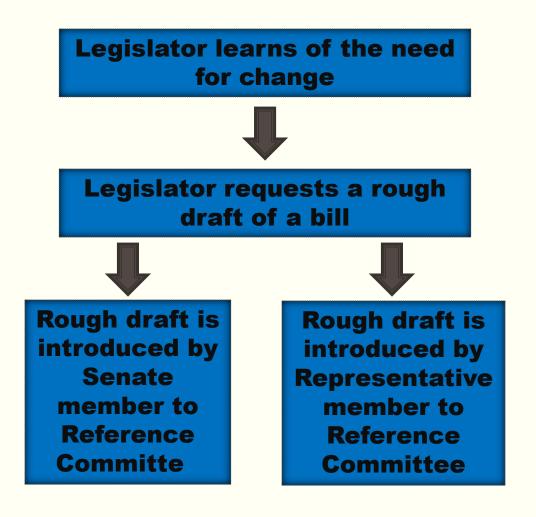
- Public statements
- Actions of government officials
  - Budget
  - Law and appropriations
  - Rules and Regulations
  - Etc.



# The Legislative Process: Implementing Policy

- After the law is passed
- Rule making process
  - Who should "own" the rule making process
- Continuation of opposition can also exist





#### How a bill becomes a law

- Standing Committee
  - Public hearings
  - Makes amendments
  - Refers to subcommittee
  - Postpone, defeat or favorable support

#### How a bill becomes a law

- Floor vote
- Bill to other house for same process
  - Amendments require concurrence
  - Conference committee formed if no concurrence
  - No amendments and favorable vote
  - Presiding officers sign
    - Speaker of the House
    - President of the Senate

#### How a bill becomes a law

- Act goes to Governor
- No action within 10 days act becomes law
- Governor signs
  - 91 days to law
- Governor Vetoes
  - Returns to both houses
  - 3/5's favor vote overrides veto

# **EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY**



#### How do I get involved?

- Call
- Write letters
- Visit with Legislators
- Volunteer
- Join Professional Organizations
- Nurse in Washington Internship
- Nurse Day at the State House

#### **Building a Relationship**

- Call your legislator
- Offer to be a member of his/her "kitchen cabinet"
- Visit the home town office
- Attend a town hall meeting
- Follow the legislator on Facebook/Twitter
  - Post!!

## **Building a Relationship**

- Know the legislators staff
  - Chief of Staff
  - Legislative Director
  - Legislative Assistant
  - Legislative Correspondent

#### **Building a Relationship**

- Know your legislators bills
  - What has he/she sponsored/ co-sponsored
- Know your legislators committees
- Learn some commonalities
  - Break the Ice!!
  - Does he/she have any links to healthcare?

### **Writing The Letter**

- Form letters
  - Personalize them
    - First paragraph
    - Conclusion
    - Share a story
- Email
- Mail
  - Verify the address
- Fax

### **Getting the Meeting**

- Call the office
- Request on-line
- Prepare
  - Be punctual
    - Confirm date/ time a day or 2 before
  - Dress professionally
  - Carry business cards
  - Bring resources for the legislator/ staff
    - 1 page handout, etc.

### **Preparing for the Meeting**

- Work on your "elevator speech"
  - Who you are
  - What your objective is
  - What is your call to action
  - Create a hook
- Practice. Practice.

### **During the Meeting**

- Introduce yourself
  - Name, position, title, city/neighborhood
  - Who are you representing
  - Break the Ice!
    - Try not to get off on a tangent
- Cover your "asks"
  - The Head
  - The Heart
  - The Health

## **During the Meeting**

- Do
  - Be respectful
  - Use active listening
  - Clarify, rephrase and repeat
- Don't
  - Be late
  - Interrupt
  - Be overly assertive

## **Ending the Meeting**

- Ask if he/she has questions you can answer
- Offer to be a resource
- Leave your business card and resources
- Ask when you can follow-up
  - Especially if no commitment
- Thank him/her for his/her time

### **After the Meeting**

- Send a letter to the LEGISLATOR
  - Thank him/her for time/consideration
  - Highlight the staffer by name
  - Send letter via email/snail mail or fax
    - Follow-up when you said you would!
- Send a "debriefing" to your organization

#### **After the Meeting**

- Debrief with your organization
  - Who did you meet with?
  - What is the legislators tie to healthcare?
  - What is the legislators position/commitment/comments on the issue?
  - Unanswered questions?

# RESOURCES FOR POLICY



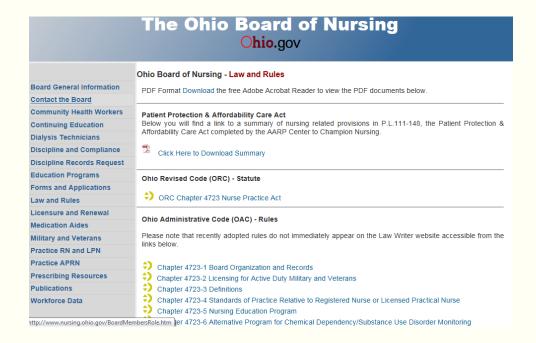
"I don't know which doctor to choose. One has more friends on Facebook, but the other one just retweeted my message."

#### Resources

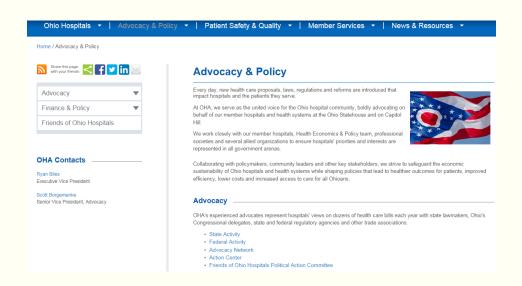


http://www.nursing.ohio.gov/Law\_and\_Rule.htm

https://oaapn.org/advocacy/legislative-updates/



#### Resources



https://www.gongwer-oh.com/programming/index.cfm

https://www.ohiohospitals.org/Policy-Advocacy.aspx

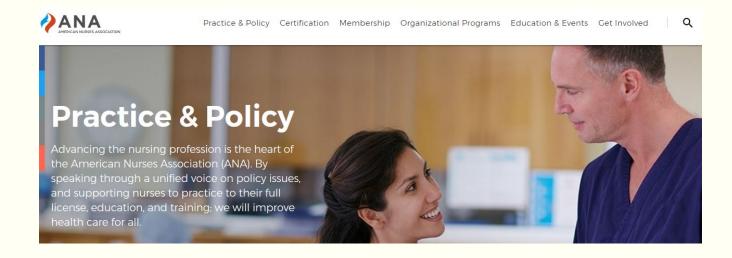


#### Resources



https://www.aanp.org/advocacy

https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/



#### **Current Legislation**

#### Ohio Priorities

- Removal of SCA
- Pharmacy Consult
- Preceptor Tax Credit
- Title Protection for RN's
- Step- Therapy

#### Federal Priorities

- Homecare
- Nursing workforce Development
- Addition of NP's to ACO Shared Saving Program
- Diabetic Shoes

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