GAPNA HEALTH POLICY TOOL KIT
What is health policy?

- Health policy is any law, regulation, or policy that affects health. This may be developed at the institutional or employment level, local community, regional, state-wide, national, or global.
  - Diseases and conditions
  - Healthy living
  - Workplace safety
  - Environmental health
  - Injury/violence and safety
  - Global health
GAPNA’S POLICY PRIORITIES

- **Care of Older Adults**
  - Engage in opportunities that promote the role of APRNs with specific focus on removing barriers to practice that impact the quality of healthcare provided to older adults across diverse settings.
    - Example: Promoting bills that remove APRN restrictions to care for geriatric patients

- **Geriatric Workforce**
  - Address the gap between the health care needs of an aging population and the number of clinicians adequately trained to provide these services.
    - Example: Promoting interdisciplinary care
      - GAPNA (2022)
How can I influence the policy process?
INFLUENCE WITH ADVOCACY
WHY?

- **Patient advocacy**
  - 70.2% report advocacy essential for patients

- **Essence of professionalism**
  - 72.2% report advocacy as a responsibility

- **Most effective method to create change**
  - 56.5% report advocacy needed to create change

Ryan & Rosenberg, 2015
HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM LOBBYING OR POLICY MAKING?

*Policy making:* allocation of scarce resources in a politically charged, highly competitive environment

*Lobbying:* defined by law as urging officials to support or oppose legislation
IRS limits lobbying 501(3)(c) organizations to no more than 5% of their time and resources devoted to lobbying

*Advocating:* to speak or write in favor of; support or urge by argument; recommend publicly

NEAH, 2010; Messutta, 2018; Jansson et al, 2016; The Future of Nursing 2020-2030, 2021; Myers, 2020
BARRIERS

- Lack of time (71.6%)
- Competing priorities (54.2%)
- Lack of knowledge and experience with political process (40.1%)
- Intimidation/insecurity in understanding the political process (24.6%)

Turale & Tuniviktikul, 2019; Jansson et al., 2016; Ryan & Rosenberg, 2015
METHODS TO ADVOCATE BY LEVEL

- Patient/Consumer
  - Participating in interdisciplinary care for discharge planning
  - Coordinating care within the patient’s insurance benefits
  - Reaching out to a community service to assist an uninsured patient’s needs

- Organization at the local level (where you work)
  - Working with administration and/or nurse leadership for policy change
METHODS TO ADVOCATE BY LEVEL

- **Professional Organization(s)**
  - Join an organization that is supportive of your practice
  - Contribute to the Political Action Committee (PAC)
  - Engage in a committee focused on health policy
  - Participate in grass roots advocacy efforts from your professional organization

- **Community**
  - Educating local counsel and residents
METHODS TO ADVOCATE BY LEVEL

- Broad Engagement
  - Vote
  - Sign in yard for candidate
  - Campaign for candidate
  - Sign Petitions

Lieninger & Gupta, 2020
HIGH LEVEL

- Send letter on bill of interest
- Comment on changes for Federal Policy
- Contact your legislator*
- Write policy briefs or position (white) papers*
- Provide written and verbal testimony*

Go to *Tips for Contacting Legislators* link
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- Start by learning about the legislative process

- Go to The Legislative Process link
REFERENCES


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