CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR
PREPARATION FOR STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL ADVOCACY

- Identify your congressional members
  - What committees are they serving on
  - What is their position on the issue or bill of interest

- Congress.gov | Library of Congress
Current Legislative Activities
117th Congress (2021-2022)

House of Representatives

Today: June 13, 2022
The House convened at 12:00 PM EDT

On the Floor Today
- H.R.7211
- H.R.6270
- S.3580

Full list

Previous Meeting: June 9, 2022

Senate

Not in Session

Video Archive

Senate Links
- On the Senate Floor
- Communications to the Senate
- Nominations
- Treaty Documents

Recent
- Yesterday in Congress
- Bill Texts [11]
- Committee Schedule
- Floor Calendars
- Committee Reports
- Roll Call Votes
- Presented to President [10]
- Get Email Alerts and Updates

The Congressional Record
- Daily Digest of latest legislative activity.

Contact Your Member

Find your member by address:
Find address or place

Contact by email and telephone.

Representatives ➤
Senators ➤

News from the Law Library
GovTrack.us
Tracking the United States Congress

GovTrack.us began in 2004 as a project to use technology to make the U.S. Congress more open and accessible. Today we’re the leading non-governmental source of legislative information and statistics.

Find your representative and senators:
Enter your home address:

Find legislation that affects you:
Select a subject area to search and get alerts:
To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

The bill's titles are written by its sponsor.
PREPARATION

- Identify the bill
  - GovTrack.us: Tracking the U.S. Congress
  - Answer the Who, What, Which, and Why to prepare for your letter, visit, or call
WHO?

- Sponsorship
  - Is the bill sponsored in both houses?
  - How many have signed on as sponsors?

- Stakeholders
  - Who are the stakeholders?
  - Are they affected positively or negatively?
  - What is the possibility of negative effect on the stakeholders?
WHAT?

- History of bill
  - Why is the bill being considered?
  - How did it evolve to its current status?
  - Is it been down regulated to weaken the law with an amendment?
  - Will it be more stringent in the guidelines?
  - What is it replacing?

- Social implications
  - Will it be more favorable of one group than another?
  - Statistical support
WHAT?

- Economic implications
  - How will the cost of the bill be covered?
- Legal implications
  - Will it override a state law?
- Ethical implications
  - Will there be harm or (cause) inequity?
WHICH?

Political Implications

Which part of the bill is a pro or con for the legislator?

- What is the opinion of the constituents?
- What pressure is the political party using for this bill?
WHY?

- Discuss legislative issues and impact they have on patient care
  - Be clear on your ask – “cosponsor H.R. or S. bill # and title”
  - Real life story: Describe at a high level using a deidentified patient example
  - Focus on access, quality and cost-effectiveness
    - Data speaks volumes (leave a one page brief*)
  - Focus on local impact (your patients/legislator’s constituents)
WHY?

- Questions & Answers (importance of preparation)
  - If you don’t know the answer – be honest and let them know you’ll get back to them
  - Offer to be a resource for questions
- Thank legislator or legislative staff member
- Send follow-up email with summary and reminder you’re available
COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LEGISLATORS

- Face to Face (live and virtual)
- Email
- Phone Call
ENGAGEMENT: FACE TO FACE

- Rule of Three (Rep. Lauren Underwood GA)
  - No more than 3 people to visit with staff and/or legislator
  - No more than 30 minutes for visit
  - No more than 3 items to discuss

- Introduction
  - Introduce each person, city and state for Federal
  - Brief background of the RN/NP role

- Discuss bill
ENGAGEMENT: EMAIL

☐ Introduce yourself:
  ☐ Name, city, state
  ☐ Nursing role

☐ Compose a letter no more than ¾ page of a word document (can cut and paste into email)
  ☐ Use sections of one page brief
  ☐ Executive summary of bill
  ☐ Position on bill (for, against, needs a change)
  ☐ Provide effect it will have on stakeholders of concern
  ☐ No attachments (email will go to spam)
  ☐ Use personal email
ENGAGEMENT: CALL

- Provide name, city, state
- Role as nurse
- Short information on why to support or not

- If calling day of bill being voted, the staff will want to know:
  - Yes, you support the bill or
  - No, you do not support the bill
SHARE

- Share experiences on the GAPNA Exchange
  - State updates
  - Federal updates
  - Check settings to get daily updates
RESOURCES

- GAPNA Website: News and Advocacy sections
- GAPNA Exchange: Health Affairs Committee
- GAPNA Health Affairs Committee on website