GAPNA

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association

GAPNA HEALTH POLICY TOOL KIT

Health Affairs Committee

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

LEVELS OF ADVOCACY

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

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