

Legislative Advocacy 101

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Presented by the NANN Health Policy & Advocacy Committee

Objectives

- To teach NANN members how to effectively become active in legislative advocacy with confidence
- To increase awareness of pertinent advocacy issues and opportunities

Goals

- Expose our members to current legislative efforts, issues, and needs surrounding neonatal legislative efforts.
- Teach techniques for researching current legislative issues that pertain to neonatal medicine.
- Provide a forum for our members to share their work on current issues, legislation, and advocacy efforts.

Additional Goals

- To foster awareness about legislative advocacy among NANN/NANNP members within their state and local communities.

WHILE

- Empowering NANN/NANN-AP members to be active advocates for children's health issues, both now and in the future.

The Three A's of Advocacy

- Awareness
 - Your own, friends, family, colleagues, legislators.
- Advancement
 - By getting involved, you can help advance a movement or effect a policy change.
- Action
 - Make contacts, write letters, call or visit your elected officials, support an organization.

Why should we be advocates?

- Babies cannot advocate for themselves
- We have a unique position to see problems and understand their implications
- The problems matter
- We have “respect” and “credibility”



Advocacy in Action

- Advocacy is a major goal for the association
- Make an impact on neonatal nursing practice regulation and policy and the health of neonates and their families
- Monitor progress on key issues and seek opportunities to work in coalition with other healthcare-related groups that share its ideals

Collaboration

Collaborating together with our national nursing organization partners on advocacy issues for nurses, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists

- American Nursing Association (ANA)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- March of Dimes
- National Council State Boards of Nursing

Advocacy Toolkit



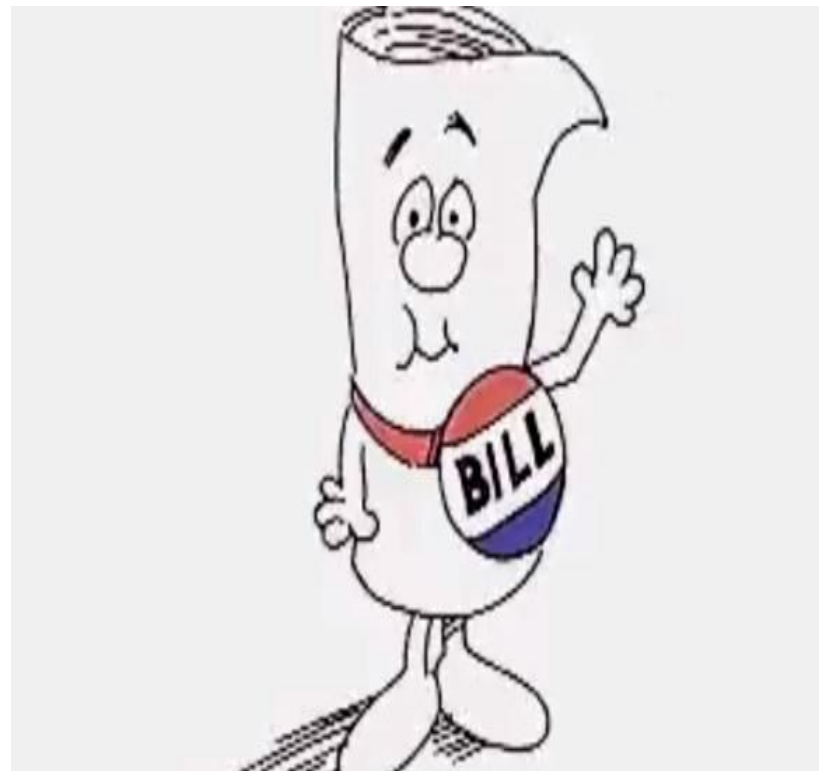
Building Knowledge



Effective advocacy begins with an understanding of the core issues and positions influencing nursing and NP practice. Become familiar with NANN and NANN-AP's position on education, regulation, policy and patient care.

Understanding the System

How does a bill become a law? Is it how we learned in school? *Sort of, but not 100%.*



Take Action

- What can you do?
 - Get involved – become a member of the MyNANN community and the Health Policy and Advocacy Committee (HPAC) forum
 - Become a member of NANN and NANN-AP – it does not matter if you are an RN or APRN; this is the first step to getting the advocacy bug
 - Get acquainted with the issues affecting nursing, nurse practitioners & clinical nurse specialists at the state and federal level

The Legislative “Process”

Sloooooooooooooooooow ...

- Varies for different legislative bodies
- Know when your voice will be heard
 - Proposal of a bill
 - Public hearings on the issue
 - Lobbying individual legislators
- And intervene!

Tracking legislation

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/> provides:

- Step by step tracking for all federal legislation. You can instantly see where a bill is in the legislative process.
- Lists of related or previous versions of a bill
- Committee assignment and list of committee members
- Pertinent facts about the progress of the bill
- Chance of bill being enacted (as a percentage)

Congressional Facts

- The 119th Congress is currently in session
- During the 118th Congress:
 - 19,297 bills were introduced in the House and 994 passed (5%)
 - 6,759 bills were introduced in the Senate and 1,029 passed (15%)
 - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/statistics>

The usual number of bills introduced in a Congressional session is 7-10,000 in the House and 2-3,000 in the Senate.

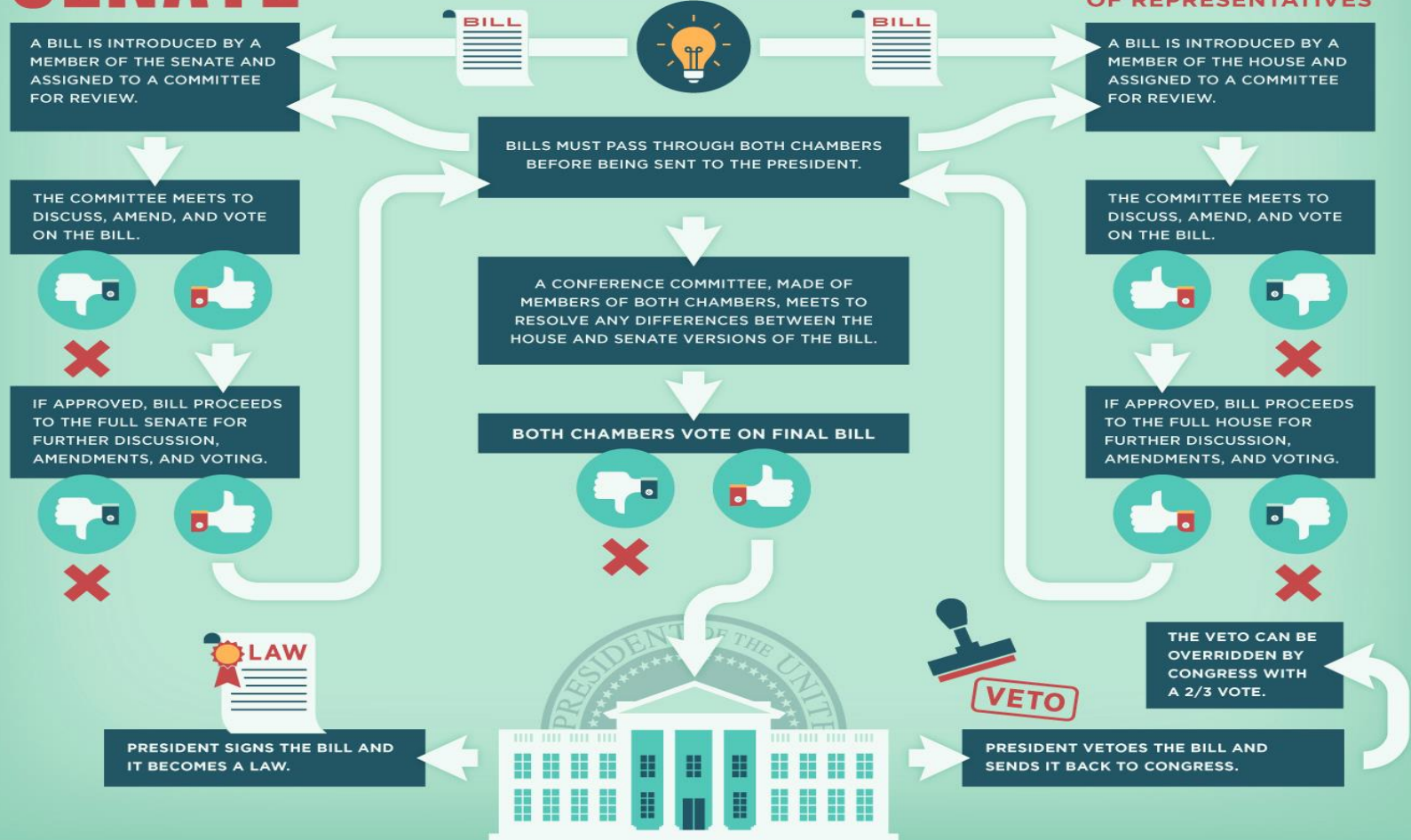
Visibility on a bill is important. Your lawmaker won't be familiar with many of the bills. Speaking up and telling our story may make all the difference when (s)he votes on a bill.

THE US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SENATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IT STARTS WITH AN IDEA...



The Next Step...

The version of the bill that pass the House and Senate must be identical before the bill can be sent to the president for signature.

Legislative Example:

Protecting our Infants Act (HR 1462 & S 799)- directs federal agencies to quantify the incidence of maternal opioid use and NAS while gathering and disseminating best practices for prevention and treatment of the problem

- Jointly introduced in the House and Senate in March 2015
- HR 1462 passed the House in September 2015
- S 799 passed the Senate in October 2015 but was amended so the bills were no longer identical.
- The Senate version went back to the House and was passed on November 16, 2015.
- S 799 was enacted (signed by the President) on November 25, 2015.

Health Policy and Advocacy Committee

- How do we work for you?
 - NANN's Health Policy and Advocacy Committee tracks nursing and nurse practitioner related legislation both at the State and Federal Level
 - Yearly, there are more than 1000 bills introduced in both nursing and healthcare
 - Having a basic understanding of how the legislative process works is just the beginning

Legislative Updates

- Nursing scope of practice
- Workplace issues such as:
 - Safe staffing
 - Mandatory overtime
 - Safe patient handling and movement
 - Workplace violence
 - Telehealth on nursing practice

NANN's Advocacy Accomplishments/Priorities

- Established partnerships with external organizations recognized in neonatal health policy
- Increased the visibility of the Health, Policy, and Advocacy Committee (HPAC) advocacy agenda
- Signed on to a variety of important bills and letters through the Nursing Coalition Community and other collaborative partnerships
- NANNcast advocacy annual topics and series planned in 2025
- Working with AWHONN on collaborative Hill Day 2026

Talking Points for Advocacy

NEONATAL ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN) SCOPE OF PRACTICE

TALKING POINTS

PROFESSIONAL ROLE

EDUCATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

RESPONSIBILITY

PRESCRIPTIVE AND DISPENSING PRIVILEGE



Health Policy and Advocacy Committee

- Lisa Davenport, DNP, RN, RNC-NIC
- Michelle Ferrant, DNP, RN, CNS
- Katelyn Halstead, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, C-NNIC, C-ELBW, IBCLC
- Heather Stephens, DNP, RNC-NIC, ACCNS-N
- Michele Sweet, MS, RN, CCNS
- Susan Taylor, BSN, MSN, RNC-NIC

Why Advocate?

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

