

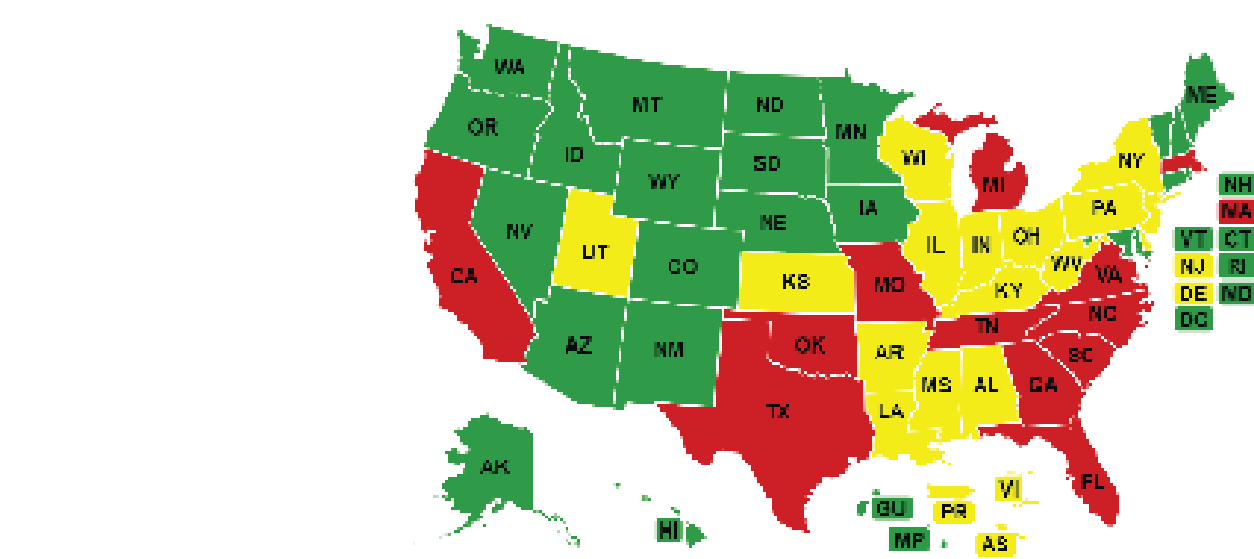
Engaging Nurse Practitioner (NP) Students in Political Activism

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BACKGROUND

- Political activism is a learned behavior (Ryan & Rosenberg, 2015).
- It is the moral and professional obligation of nurses to be engaged in the political process (Brokaw, 2016).
- Nurse Practitioner (NP) student exposure to the political process is limited (Brokaw, 2016; Phillips, 2012; Taylor 2016; Woodward, Smart, & Benavides-Vaello, 2016).
- Improving the health of populations requires political engagement by NP leaders who promote legislation to remove barriers to care. An exemplar is Maryland's journey to full practice authority, successfully repealing the collaborative agreement in 2010 and the Attestation requirement in 2015. NPs in Maryland can now practice to the full extent of their education and experience (Buppert, 2007a; Kunaviktikul, 2014; NPAM, 2015).
- The development of a Political Activism Toolbox will provide a concrete template for NP faculty to add interactive learning to the didactic in their university level Healthcare Policy coursework.



- Full Practice:** State practice and licensure laws permit all NPs to evaluate patients; diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests; and initiate and manage treatments, including prescribing medications and controlled substances, under the exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing. This is the model recommended by the National Academy of Medicine, formerly called the Institute of Medicine, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.
- Reduced Practice:** State practice and licensure laws reduce the ability of NPs to engage in at least one element of NP practice. State law requires a career-long regulated collaborative agreement with another health provider in order for the NP to provide patient care, or it limits the setting of one or more elements of NP practice.
- Restricted Practice:** State practice and licensure laws restrict the ability of NPs to engage in at least one element of NP practice. State law requires career-long supervision, delegation or team management by another health provider in order for the NP to provide patient care.

See State Fact Sheets for more information.

DISCLAIMER: The material contained in this is offered as information only and not as practice, financial, accounting, legal or other professional advice. Correspondents must contact their own professional advisors for such advice.



(AANP, 2019).

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote political activism among nurse practitioner students.
2. To provide the tools for Nurse Practitioners to successfully engage in the political process.
3. To promote improved quality and access to care across diverse populations
4. To demonstrate a successful NP led legislative initiative resulting in Full Practice Authority

POLITICAL ACTIVISM TOOLBOX

- ❖ Join your professional nursing association (local, state, national)
- ❖ Take an active role in your professional nursing association
 - ❖ Attend meetings/conferences
 - ❖ Attend lobby days
 - ❖ Participate in workshops
 - ❖ Volunteer for a committee
 - ❖ Get involved in a leadership position
 - ❖ Join or engage with the Legislative Committee
 - ❖ Identify the issue: Legislation or regulation?
 - ❖ Meet and collaborate with the lobbyist to understand their role (Kelly, 2007).
- ❖ Identify and cultivate a relationship with key legislators; relay personal stories.
 - ❖ Constituent's will identify their district and legislators (See Tools)
- ❖ Plan your approach; lay the groundwork
- ❖ Attend legislative events prior to session
- ❖ Support your organization's Political Action Committee (PAC)
- ❖ Confirm your bill sponsor/co-sponsor
- ❖ Draft the legislation prior to the start of session
- ❖ Identify stakeholders; power in numbers
- ❖ Anticipate pushback and prepare to refute
- ❖ Engage colleagues to contact Committee members. Draft language to deliver a consistent message. (See Tools)
- ❖ Meet with key legislators; bring those with a personal story (Buppert, 2007b; Oestberg, 2012).



(NPAM, 2015)

TOOLS

- 1) How a bill becomes a law. (Maryland Association of Counties, 2014). Identify your district and your legislators:
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/MD#senators>
 - Sample Letter to Senator
 - Sample Letter to Delegate
- 2) Follow your Bill and revisions:
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmtrackingmain.aspx?pid=trackpage>
 - U.S. Senate <http://www.senate.gov>
 - U.S. House of Representatives <http://www.house.gov>



PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

- American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) <https://www.aanp.org/>
- American Nurses Association (ANA) <https://www.nursingworld.org/>
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement [Formerly the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (IOM)]. <http://www.ihp.org/resources/Pages/OtherWebsites/TheInstituteofMedicine.aspx>
- Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians (MAAPC) <https://maapconline.enpnetwork.com/>
- Maryland Action Coalition (MdAC) <https://campaignforaction.org/state/maryland/>
- Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) <https://mna.nursingnetwork.com/>
- Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) <http://www.nursing-alliance.org/content.cfm/id/niwi>
- Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) <https://www.npamonline.org/>

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