Becoming a Nursing Champion
From Reference Proposal to Legislation
Nursing’s Unique Perspective

- 26,700 Registered Nurses in Nebraska
- Unparalleled public trust
- Collaboration and communication
- Advocacy ➔ bedside, boardroom, beyond
Opportunity

- Rapidly changing healthcare environment
- Expanded access through expanded coverage
- Essential:
  - Nursing Champions in advocacy and leadership roles
Types of Advocacy

- Local/Organizational
- Legislative Advocacy
  - State Issues/Bills
- Congressional Advocacy
  - National Issues/Bills
NNA Reference Proposal

Becoming a Nursing Champion through grassroots advocacy
NNA Purposes

- Work for the improvement of health standards and the availability of health service for all people
- Foster high standards of nursing practice
- Stimulate and promote the professional development of nurses and advance their professional security
NNA Functions (selected from Bylaws)

- Initiate and influence legislation, governmental programs, and state health policy
- Promote and protect the professional security of nurses
- Assume an active role as consumer advocate in health
- Represent and speak for the nursing profession...
NNA Governance

- House of Delegates
  - Annual governance meeting of NNA
  - Delegates elected according to apportionment
  - Define association policies and positions
  - Authorize and define accountability for implementation
NNA Governance - cont.

- Board of Directors
- Committees
  - Governance, Finance, Membership
  - Nursing Professional Development
  - Legislative Advocacy and Representation
Grassroots Advocacy (reference proposals)

- Informs the organization
- Guides organizational leadership
  - Stating positions related to current issues
  - Crafting potential legislation
  - Positions on current legislation
- Education for larger audience through media
Reference Proposals

- Suggest NNA’s actions in regards to issues or ideas
- Presented to House of Delegates
  - Discussion
  - Vote to Adopt (or not)
- Guide and direct organizations actions
- Allows membership to direct the organization
Call for Reference Proposals

- Nursing Professional Development Committee
- Deadline for submission is usually July 1
  - Allows time for editing, referring, or rejecting
- Emergency proposals accepted past deadline
- Proposals may be submitted by individual or groups of members
Workplace Violence

- NNA Reference Proposal 2009
- Legislative Bill
- NE Revised Statute 28-930, 28-931
Legislative Testimony

Becoming a Nursing Champion at the State level
Legislative Process

- Bill introduction
- Committee hearing
  - General File
  - Select File
  - Final Reading
- Governor
Legislative Committees

✧ Bills must receive a public committee hearing

✧ 14 standing committees
  ✧ Health and Human Services
  ✧ Appropriations
  ✧ Banking, Commerce, and Insurance

✧ Direct opportunity to influence policy
What Happens at a Hearing?

- Hearing convened
- Rules for Testimony
- Bill presented to the committee by sponsor
- Chair invites testimony
  - Proponents, Opponents, Neutral
Rules of Engagement

- Sign in at witness table
- State and spell name for record
- Identify whether you represent a larger group
- Be respectful of time limits
- Written testimony may also be submitted
  - This is the place for supporting facts, statistics
Don’t panic
Tell the story

- Impact of proposed legislation
  - How might this affect patients?
  - How might this affect practice?
- Limit facts and figures
- Expect Questions!
Congressional Advocacy

Becoming a Nursing Champion at the national level
Professional Issues Panels
American Nurses Association

- Drive informed decision making at ANA level
  - Steering Committee (15 members)
    - Deep dive
    - Meet via conference call over 3-6 months
  - Advisory Committee
    - Provides additional information
    - Ensures rigor
    - Feedback and advice
- ANA members with relevant experience or expertise
Current Panels

- Barriers to RN Scope of Practice Panel
- Workplace violence and incivility Panel
- Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice Revision Workgroup
- Care Coordination Quality Measures Panel
- Nursing Fatigue Professional Issues Panel
- Nursing Administration: Scope and Standards of Practice Revision Workgroup
- Revision of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements Panel
Environmental Scan

- Identify leaders
- Identify stakeholders
  - What is the relationship between NNA and stakeholders?
- Resources
- Timing
  - Has this been previously addressed?
  - Are there competing issues?
  - Identify legislative power base
  - Relevency
ANAI
American Nurses Advocacy Institute

- Purpose: Develop nurses as stronger political leaders
- Expand grassroots advocacy for nursing
- Year-long, mentored program

ANAI Fellows:
- Provide counsel to state association
- Recommend strategies
- Educate members about political realities
Tracking a Bill

- ANA tracks federal legislation concerning nursing and health care
  - www.rnaction.org

- Library of Congress
  - THOMAS now Congress.gov
    - Loc.gov (Library of Congress)

- Congress.gov
  - Official website for US federal legislative information
ANA Legislative Priorities 113th Congress

- Scope of Practice and Health Care Innovation
  - Barriers to APRN practice
  - Neutral language
  - Medicaid coverage of advance practice nursing

- Safe Staffing

- Workplace Health and Safety
  - Safe Patient Handling

- Nursing Shortage
  - Title VIII: Funding for nursing workforce development
Messaging

- Know your audience
- Frame your message
  - Keep long and short term goals in mind
- Clear, Concise, and easy to remember
- ASK, ask again
- Prepare- Practice- Repeat
Become a Nursing Champion!

- Be an informed advocate for nursing issues
- Get to know your Elected Officials
- Offer to serve as a resource in their district
- Respond to Action Alerts!!
  - Email or Call