THE MANY FACES OF HEALTH POLICY AND ADVOCACY IN PEDIATRIC SURGERY
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OBJECTIVES
- Identify 2 health policy or advocacy activities that you are interested in learning more about
- Name 2 areas of involvement that can be done in the workplace
- Describe 2 activities that you may engage in to learn more about the legislative process

DISCUSSION
- Since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted in 2010, there continues to be significant transformation within our health care system.
- In the IOM report ‘The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health’ (IOM, 2011), nurses are tasked with being active partners in [the] transformation of health care.”
- Interest and involvement in health policy/advocacy activities often begins with an “Aha” moment.
- Health policy and advocacy can take many forms across the nursing continuum and different roles.
- Efforts may be directed towards patients, communities, the profession, or public policy.
- Pediatric Surgery caregivers and providers are in an unique position to advocate for improvements in preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative care.
- Children with Special Health Care Needs are likely to benefit most from health policy/advocacy activities.

CONCLUSIONS
- Look for your “Aha” moment and become involved!
- As one progresses through the Novice to Expert continuum, interest, knowledge and participation in health policy and advocacy activities may be seen as fluid rather than mutually exclusive.
- Find a mentor to help guide your way! Institutional and professional organization Health Policy and Advocacy (Legislative) committees are a good place to start.
