

Making the Legislative Process Work for Missouri's Nurses



The Missouri Nurses Association (MONA)

Mission:

*The **vision** of the Missouri Nurses Association is to be one strong voice for Missouri nurses.*

*The **mission** of MONA is to promote, protect and enhance registered professional nursing practice through advocacy, education, collaboration and partnership.*

*The **purposes** of MONA shall be to act and speak for the nursing profession and to promote and enhance the accountability and control of nursing practice by the nursing profession.*

Why MONA Needs to be Involved in the Legislative Process

- Everything you advocate for can be lost in the legislature by one vote
- Creating a more friendly environment for nurses
- Fight for and protect the nursing interests in the state of Missouri.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- Introduced in the House or Senate or both
- Bill gets a hearing (proponents and opponents)
- Bill voted on in committee
- If Passed bill moves to legislative calendar
- Bill debated on floor
- Bill passes out of body and moves to other body
- Bill passes out of other body
- Bill goes to conference committee
- Same bill passed in both bodies
- Bill goes to governor for signature or veto
- If veto then potential override
- If signed, you have a new law



Make-up of Missouri Legislature

- 163 House of Representative Members
 - As of 2011, 103 Republicans, 58 Democrats, 2 vacancies
 - It takes 82 votes to pass a bill in the House
- 34 Senate Members
 - As of 2011, 26 Republicans, 8 Democrats
 - It takes 18 votes to pass a bill in the Senate

As of 2011, the House and Senate are Majority Republican and the Executive Office of Governor is Democrat.

Successful Legislators are:

- Legislator
- Fundraiser
- Sales Representative
- Campaigner
- Lobbyist
- Listener

How Do We Shape This Legislative Process? Through Lobbying



Lobbying is Not a Bad Word

- It's your First Amendment right
- Your Legislators want to hear from you
- You have a right and duty to stand up for or against issues that effect you and all of the nurses in Missouri.



How to Effectively Lobby

- Be informed
- Be polite
- Reference the specific legislation by proper title (HB 761)
- Make it personal and talk about how this issue affects you
- Have a specific “ask”, know what you are asking them to support
- Follow up and remain in contact

Do Your Homework

- Voting constituents from home are head and shoulders above other groups
- Check your legislator's website for meeting dates
- What awards have they received
- What bills have they introduced
- What committees do they serve on

**ASK “WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO TO PASS
OUR LEGISLATION AND TO WIN?”**

When to Lobby

- Before a Committee Hearing
- Before the vote
- While Legislation is being drafted



Avoid Lobbying When Inappropriate

- In a restaurant
- At church
- At a Senator's child's little league game
- USE COMMON SENSE

Remember You are the Expert

- Members and staff do not have time to understand every issue and detail
- You know what is happening in nursing in the clinic, in the hospital, and in other healthcare settings
- They rely on constituents and others to help educate them
- They want to hear your input and experience

Practice Makes Perfect

- Before lobbying make sure you know your issue
- Have notes for the key points you want to discuss
- Know your facts
- If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them you don't know and you will get the info and get it back to them. Never make up an answer

How to Make Contact



- Write a LETTER
- Make a CALL
- Schedule a MEETING

All Communications Should Be:

- Clear
- Concise
- Consistent



Face to Face is Best

- Do your homework
- Find their schedule (website, facebook, twitter)
- Introduce yourself
- Meet your legislator at home during the Interim
- Offer to serve as a resource for healthcare, specifically nursing issues
- Present a business card or contact information
- Follow-up note

Maintain a Relationship

- Once you have contact with a legislator stay in contact with them
- Send thank you notes
- Give them credit where credit is due

Your Efforts Make a Difference

- We need your voice
- We need your persistence
- We need your advocacy

**The Missouri Nurses Association
NEEDS YOU!**

Resources for Further Information

- Visit the MONA website at:
www.missourinurses.org
- Contact Kyna Iman, MONA's Legislative Consultant at:
kynaiman@earthlink.net
- Contact Jill Kliethermes, MONA's CEO at:
jill@missourinurses.org
- House & Senate contact:
www.moga.mo.gov for
Legislator Look-up info

If we don't stand
up for the nurses
of Missouri,

Who Will?

