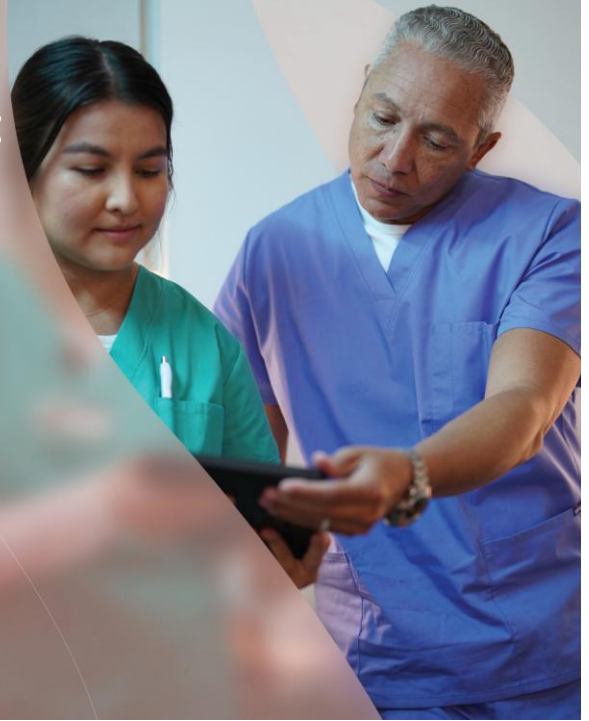


The Power of Nurses: Advocacy, Policy, and Collective Impact

2026 Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day
Simit Pandya
February 25, 2026



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Part 1

The National Voice of Nurses

2



ANA: The National Voice of Nurses

Advocate for nurses
and patients
nationwide

Engage Congress,
federal agencies,
and state
governments

Partner with state
nurses associations
and organizational
affiliates

Advance policies to
improve the nursing
profession and
practice

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How ANA Advocates

Three Channels of Policy Influence



CONGRESSIONAL
ADVOCACY



REGULATORY
ADVOCACY



STATE GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS

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Congressional Advocacy

- Advancing federal legislation and funding
- Educating policymakers
- Building national coalitions
- Activating nurses voice to support priorities

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Regulatory Advocacy

- Engaging federal agencies in rulemaking
- Providing expert comments and guidance
- Shaping implementation of federal laws that reach the bedside

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State Government Affairs

- Supporting state nurses associations
- Tracking trends and sharing strategies
- Advancing state-level nursing issues

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Part 2

Why Advocacy Matters

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Policy decisions shape nursing practice and patient care.

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Policy Touches Every Nurse

Staffing

Safety

Education

Scope of Practice

Payment

Patient Access

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“

**If nurses are not at the table,
decisions are made without us.**

”

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Nurses are natural advocates.

**You advocate for your patients on
the job, and now you advocate for
your profession.**

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Part 3

What We Advocate For

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ANA's Priority Issues



Work Environment & Safety



Workforce Pipeline & Education



Access & Health Outcomes



Payment & Administrative Burden



Technology, Artificial Intelligence, & the Future of Nursing

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Work Environment & Safety

Workplace Violence Prevention

Safe Staffing

Mandatory Overtime Prohibitions

Surgical Smoke

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Workforce Pipeline & Education

Title VIII

Student Loan Access

Faculty and Preceptor Support

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Access & Outcomes

APRN Full Practice Authority

Addressing Social Determinants of Health

Women's & Maternal Health Care

Medicaid

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Payment & Administrative Burden

Payment Policy/Reimbursement

Prior-Authorization

Taxes

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Technology, Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Nursing

Artificial Intelligence

What will be next?

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Part 4

Best Practices

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Making the Most of Your Meetings

Before

- **Prepare**
 - Research the legislator, practice your story/comments, review the issues
- **Confirm Meeting**
 - Check in **a week before** with the office or meeting coordinator
- **Arrive early**
 - Aim to arrive at least **15 minutes early**
 - Touchbase and assign a notetaker
- **Dress professionally**
 - You're representing the nursing profession

During

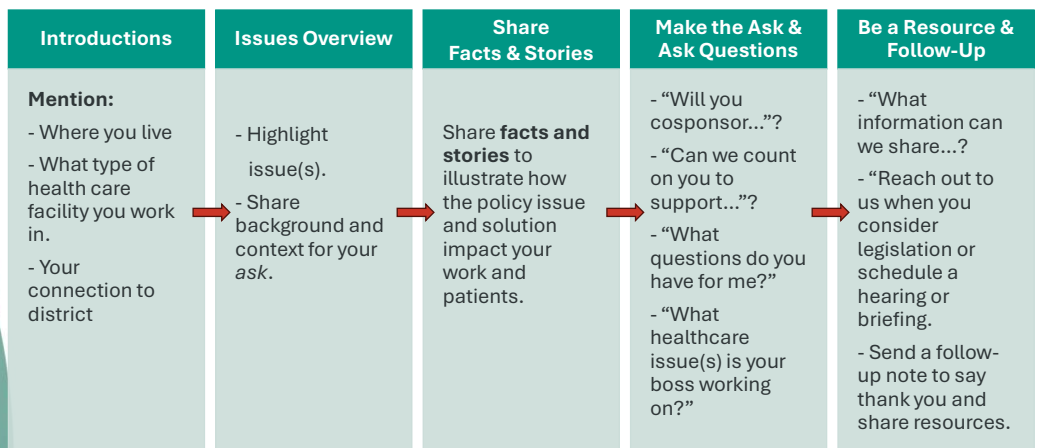
- **Keep it simple**
 - Don't assume prior knowledge
 - Avoid technical terminology
- **Don't stress if you don't know**
 - Just say you're not sure and that you'll follow up after!
- **Bring the issues home**
 - Talk about how the topics at hand impact your community and work
- **Make the ask**
 - Be direct, tell the lawmaker or their staff what you'd like their office to do

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Best Practices



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Other Tips & Tricks

- **Meetings with Staff:**

- Just as important - staff guide and implement legislator's policy agenda

- **Be flexible:**

- Members' schedules are fluid.
- Meeting duration and location vary.

- **Do Not:**

- Be rude or dismissive.
- Dominate the conversation.
- Assume they know your topic.
- Make assumptions about office.
- Overdo details.
- Send long follow-up emails.
- Be afraid to stay in touch with the office



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Facts make you credible, but stories make you memorable!



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Part 5

How You Can Advocate

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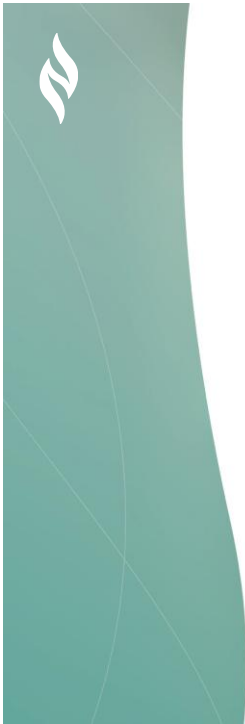
“

**When nurses speak,
Washington listens.**

”

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Get Involved

Action Center

- Take action on ANA Grassroots campaigns

Hill Day

- Hundreds of nurses head to Capitol Hill to advocate for the profession and patient.

In-District Meetings

- Like Hill Day, but in the districts.

Nurses Vote

- Election Hub

Members Only

- **ANA-PAC**
 - PAC membership helps elect nurse champions.
- **Nurses Action Society**
 - Take your advocacy to the next level.

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RN Action



American Nurses Association

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Nurses: Your Voice Matters.



Prevent Arbitrary Loan Caps for Nurses

TAKE ACTION



While the American Nurses Association (ANA) advocates for top nursing priorities year-round, nothing is more impactful than lawmakers hearing directly from nurses and nursing students.

Ready to take action? Explore **RN Action**, ANA's digital advocacy hub, for resources and the tools you need to get involved in the push for safer workplaces, a stronger nursing workforce, and quality healthcare for all.

[Sign up for RNAction Alerts](#)

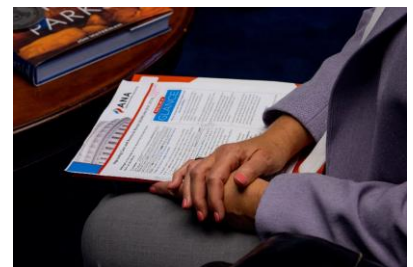
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Resources

- In-district meetings toolkit
 - Scheduling an in-district meeting/site visit
 - Recommended follow up
 - Email templates
- 'Leave behinds'
 - Issue briefs, list of nursing caucus members, etc.
- Talking Points
- Webpage on [RNAAction](#)
- ANA Policy and Government Affairs Team at Gova@ana.org



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Learn More

Advocacy Library

- Learn more about ANA's advocacy with Congress and federal agencies, coalition work, and more.

Capitol Beat Blog

- Hear from the ANA's Policy and Government Affairs team with in-depth analysis on federal and state advocacy issues.

Latest News

- Learn the latest nursing and healthcare advocacy updates, current events, and more.

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