

MASSACHUSETTS

Legislative Link to Nursing

The American Nurses Association Massachusetts (ANAMASS) is a constituent member association of the American Nurses Association, the association representing the interests of the nation's 4 million registered nurses. We advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. All registered nurses are eligible to join ANA Massachusetts. Reflective of the profession, our membership is inclusive of many roles, including direct care nurses and advanced practice registered nurses, who work in a wide range of settings such as acute care hospitals, clinics, long-term care, schools and other settings. Approximately 50 percent of ANA's members who hold membership at the state and national level are direct care, staff nurses. For more information, visit www.anamass.org

"Leaders become great not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others."

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Welcome and Introduction



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Legislative Link to Nursing. As you know, ANAMASS is the only voluntary professional association which represents the interests of all registered nurses across the Commonwealth and is a constituent member association of the American Nurses Association, the organization which sets the standards of practice for nursing, maintains the code of ethics, and represents the interests of the nation's 4 million nurses on Capitol Hill.

My name is Julie Cronin, and I am the current President of ANAMASS. I am a registered nurse, and currently the nurse director of the oncology infusion unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. Last year many of you heard frequently from our immediate past president, Donna Glynn, and as this year's President I wanted to start a regular communication with our legislators to help keep you updated on issues of importance to the nursing community, activities ANAMASS is doing on behalf of its members, and to be available to you as a resource as you serve your constituents.

Along with our Executive Director, Cammie Townsend, and lobbyist Pat Lynch, we have been making time to contact legislators and request meetings with you and your staff to discuss our member's concerns and perspective on our legislative agenda and how we can work together to improve the health of the commonwealth and the nursing profession. Please reach out anytime and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our 2019 Legislative Forum!

Julie

Julie Cronin, RN, DNP, OCN
President, ANA Massachusetts

ANAMASS 2019-2021 Legislative Agenda

1. HB2664/SB701- An Act relative to the governance of the Health Policy Commission

Sponsors: Rep. Kay Khan (D) & Sen. Jason Lewis (D)

Summary: The HB2664/SB701 bill amends GL 6D:2, the statute governing the makeup of the health policy commission, to add a new twelfth member, the fourth to be appointed by the governor, who is to be a registered nurse licensed to practice in Massachusetts in a patient care setting, appointed for a term of 5 years. The bill also adds a new thirteenth member to be appointed by the attorney general, who is to be an individual having an advanced degree in public health with expertise in implementing strategies to eliminate health care disparities. That is an appointed one-year term.

2. HB1941/SB1345- An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and professional nursing practice

Sponsors: Rep. Kay Khan (D) & Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)

Summary: Bill HB1941/SB1345 adds Section 219 to GL 6 establishing a 17-member Commission on nurse staffing in hospitals to review and make recommendations regarding best nurse staffing practices designed to improve the patient care environment, quality outcomes, and nurse satisfaction. This bill locates the Commission within, but is not subject to the control of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, articulates the qualifications and terms of Commission members, identifies several areas of examination for the Commission relative to nurse staffing levels and requires the Commission to file an annual report with the Legislature.

3. HB1976/SB1093: An Act requiring health care facilities to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence

Sponsors: Rep. Michael Moran (D) & Sen. Jason Lewis (D)

Summary: Bill HB1976/SB1093 establishes a new GL 111:237 related to the safety of healthcare employees. The bill directs the department of public health to develop statewide standards for evaluating and addressing known security risks in different healthcare settings, requires health care employers to develop and implement programs to minimize the danger of workplace violence in accordance with the DPH standards, requires health care employers to designate a senior manager to oversee the development of such programs and an in-house crisis response team for employee victims, establishes criminal penalties for committing assault or assault and battery on emergency medical technician, ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or a health care provider, requires health care facilities to allow employees who were victims of violence to take unpaid time off to seek or obtain victim services, legal services, obtain a protective order or participate in legal proceedings, directs EOHHS to coordinate with EOPSS to develop a system allowing the sharing of records to facilitate patient care, security risk assessments and planning and healthcare operations.

4. HB1578/SB838: An Act strengthening the penalty for assault or assault and battery on an emergency medical technician ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or health care provider

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Tucker & Sen. Michael Brady

Summary: Bill HB1578/SB838 increases the penalty to include imprisonment in a state prison up to five years and strikes out "treating or transporting" to make more universal (e.g., not just during those times).

5. HB1944/SB103: An Act relative to nurse licensure compact in Massachusetts

Sponsors: Rep. Kay Khan (D) & Sen. Joseph Boncore (D)

Summary: Bill HB1944/SB103 Increases public access to safe nursing care, provides for the rapid deployment of qualified nurses in response to a state of emergency, addresses the emerging practice of nursing through telecommunications technology, supports spouses of relocating military members, and builds effective interstate communication on licensure and enforcement issues.

6. HB1867: An Act to support access, value and equity in health care (SAVE Act)

Co-Sponsors: Rep. Paul Donato (D) & Kay Khan (D)

Summary: Bill HB1867 amends sections of GL c.94c (controlled substances) and GL c.112 (registration of certain professions and occupations) to expand the authority of nurse practitioners to dispense, administer or conduct research on controlled substances by removing the requirement that they do so under the supervision of a physician. The bill also gives the Board of Registration in Nursing the sole authority for regulating the practice of nurse practitioners by removing the requirement that the board of registration in medicine concur, removes certain restrictive time limitations on writing prescriptions by nurse practitioners; updates the Nurse Practice Act to reflect that nurse practitioners are authorized not only to order tests and therapeutics, but also to interpret them.

7. HB3487/SB1213: An Act relative to safe patient handling in certain health facilities

Sponsors: Rep. Claire Cronin & Sen. Harriet Chandler

Summary: Bill HB3487 amends GL c.111 (Public Health) by adding new provisions that regulate the lifting of patients in both acute care and long-term care facilities. In particular, the bill defines the lift team as health care facility employees specially trained to handle patient lifts, transfers, and repositioning using lifting equipment when appropriate and precluded from performing other duties. This bill establishes 35 pounds as the maximum recommended weight lift limit established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The bill further requires each health care facility to establish a safe patient handling committee to design and recommend the process for implementing a safe patient handling program. By December 30, 2020, health care facilities must complete the acquisition of safe patient handling equipment. In addition, the development of architectural plans for constructing or remodeling a health care facility or a unit of a health care facility must incorporate patient handling equipment and the construction design needed to accommodate such equipment.

8. SB683 - An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts

Sponsor: Sen. James Eldridge (D)

Summary: This substantial bill establishes a new chapter 175L, the Massachusetts Health Care Trust, in the General Laws, which would create a single-payer system for health care in Massachusetts. The bill establishes a Massachusetts Health Care Trust, which will be the single-payer body responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds required to provide health care services for every resident of the Commonwealth.

ANAMASS 2019-2021 Legislative Agenda



9. SB589 - An Act relative to limits on insurers' retroactive clawbacks for mental health and substance use disorder services

Sponsor: Sen. Cindy Friedman (D)

Summary: This bill establishes a new GL 111:237 - 237C, regulating the use and coverage of step therapy protocols in medical treatment, defines step therapy protocols as a specific sequence in which prescription drugs for a specified medical condition are provided when medically appropriate, establishes and regulates the membership of a special commission to study and assess the implementation of step therapy process reforms, requires submission of findings and recommendations within 9 months, regulates the evaluation of step therapy protocols, and requires use clinical data to determine their effectiveness. This bill requires insurance companies that restrict the use of a particular drug included in step therapy to establish a clear readily accessible and convenient process to request a step therapy exception and requires insurance companies and MassHealth to grant the exception in the listed circumstances, including when the required drug is known to be contraindicated with other drugs in the protocol or when the patient has tried and failed on the required drug.

Massachusetts Bills: Cadet Nurses

S.2178 An Act relative to the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 6 of the general laws to add a new section "The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting the apart the fifteenth day of June as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day".

S.997/HR 2056 - United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) Rep. Cheri Bustos (D)

Summary: This bill amends the GI Bill to recognize that service in the US Cadet Nurse Service Corps between 7/1/1943 and 12/31/1948 constituted active military service and those who served receive honorary veteran status including **only burial benefits (headstone)** and medals or other commendations.



To register, visit
www.anamass.org

Limited seating - don't
miss out!

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AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
MASSACHUSETTS

2019 Health Policy Legislative Forum

Medicare for All: An Alternative Health Financing Program with Implications for All

Tuesday, October 1, 2019
Massachusetts State House (Great Hall)
8:30 am - 1 pm

Moderator: Barbara Blakeney MS, RN, FNAP
Member, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
ANA Massachusetts member and Past President of the American
Nurses Association

Jonathan Holmes Gruber, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Professor and Economist

Dr. Gruber is the Ford Professor of Economics at MIT and Director of the National Bureau of Economic Research's Program of Health Care. As associate editor of both the Journal of Public Economics and the Journal of Health Economics, Gruber has been heavily involved in crafting and critiquing the economic impact of public health policy.

Christine Schrauf, PhD, RN, MBA
Elms College, Chicopee, MA
Faculty Member, School of Nursing

Dr. Schrauf teaches health policy and professional ethics to graduate nursing students at Elms College and participates in advocacy efforts through membership in the ANAMASS Health Policy Committee.

Nancy Turnbull, MBA
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Senior Associate
Dean for Professional Education

In addition to her administrative responsibilities, Ms. Turnbull is also senior lecturer in health policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Since 2007, she has also been the consumer representative on the board of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, the insurance exchange/marketplace in Massachusetts.

NURSING PRACTICE
IS CHANGING.

SO ARE WE.