

CAPITOL BASICS: VISITING AND LOBBYING THE ARIZONA CAPITOL

BEFORE YOU VISIT

Get to Know Your Legislators

Familiarize yourself with your legislators. What committees are they on? The Senate Health & Human Services and House Health Committees deal with most of the health issues at the legislature. You can find information on your legislators at www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.

Be Prepared

Review the current legislative priorities of AzNA and decide which ones you want to focus on. While there are several issues we hope you'll discuss with your legislators, we want you to talk about the ones to which you can lend your expertise.

Come Up With a Plan

You have been placed in group with other nurses based upon your legislative district. If your group is larger than 5 or 6 people, you may want to break into smaller groups. Appoint someone from your group(s) to be the main point of contact. This person can change with each new day you plan to be at the capitol, with each legislator, or by smaller group. Choose what works best for your group's plan.

Final Preparations

- Contact AzNA at 480.831.0404 to notify staff of your appointment time(s)
- Check azleg.gov for meeting schedules (Health & Human Services, Appropriations, or House/Senate Floor)
- *If provided to you via email by AzNA, review the Legislative Talking Points*

DURING YOUR VISIT

When You Arrive at the Capitol

- Check in with AzNA in the Capitol Museum, 2nd Floor, Historic Supreme Court Room
- Pick up the following: Legislative Talking Points, AzNA Nurse Lifesavers & Bookmarks

Be Prompt and Patient

When it's time to meet with your legislator, be punctual and patient. It is not uncommon for legislators to be late, or to have a meeting interrupted, due to the legislator's busy schedule. If interruptions do occur, be flexible. When the opportunity presents itself, continue your meeting with the legislator's staff member. Don't be disillusioned when the staff member is young. Many are, but these are the staff that can bend the legislator's ear and actually do the work. In the event that your legislator cancels the appointment, make sure to leave your materials with his/her staff.

Make the "Ask"

Legislators want to represent the best interests of their district. Wherever possible, demonstrate the connection between what you are requesting and the interests of the legislator's constituency. Describe for the legislator how you or your group can be of assistance to him or her. Where it is appropriate, remember to ask for a commitment. Don't forget: 'A Nurse for Every Legislator'!

Be Responsive

Be prepared to answer questions or provide additional information in the event the legislator expresses interest or asks questions. However, if you don't know the answer to a particular question, please do not make it up. Respond by saying you don't know the answer but would be willing to follow-up and get back to him or her. AzNA representatives will follow up after the meeting, but please take note of what follow-up is needed.

AFTER THE VISIT

Debrief

Please **fill out your Legislator Visit Feedback Form** so AzNA representatives know what needs follow-up. Return to the Historic Supreme Court Room to debrief with AzNA. **Visit aznurse.org/LegislatorThanks** for a sample thank you email, then use your **Legislator Worksheet** to quickly and easily send personal thank you emails to your legislator(s).