POLICY AND POLITICS

A Guide for Nurse Practitioners:
“Don’t Just Sit There Like a Bump on a Pickle”

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APRNs bring the voices of patients and families into public forums and policy settings

APRNs are essential advocates for health care policy

APRNs have a “big picture” view of health care and health policy

Policy and Politics

You want me to do what?

STAGES OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
BUY IN

- THE AHA! MOMENT
  (you realize that **you** can make a difference)

- REACTIVE STAGE
  (you step up to the plate, volunteer, call, write letters, postcards, email)

- SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, 
  ------- and, I CAN DO IT!

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SELF-INTEREST

- FOCUSING ON CERTAIN ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOUR PRACTICE

- ENLIST SUPPORT TO A POLITICAL ACTION, 
  OR TO A CANDIDATE, 
  OR TO AN ISSUE

- JOIN A ORGANIZATION (KCNPNM)

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POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION

- Establish relationships:
  - Local: managers, hospital board members
  - Regional: State Representatives or Senators
  - National: Congressional Representatives and Senators

- Participate:
  - Policy-making organizations
  - Committees
  - Clinics

- Assume leadership positions:
  - Organize a health-based activity, event, group
  - Nursing organization board member
  - Community healthcare boards of health
  - Run for political office

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John Kingdon’s Framework

**THREE STREAM PROCESS**

- PROBLEMS
- POLICY FORMATION
- POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

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PROBLEM STREAM

- Identify problem
- Gather data and information
- Develop a question
  "What could or should be done about this problem?"
- Identify key factors that support or oppose the issue
- Focus on the global outcomes
POLICY STREAM

- Technical feasibility
  (can the solution be done?)
- Value acceptability
  (do others think the problem/solution is needed?)
- Tolerable cost in view of budgetary constraints
  (is the solution affordable or will it help with global costs?)
- Anticipated public acquiescence
  (will the solution be accepted by the public?)
- Political receptivity among decision makers
  (does the solution have political acceptance?)

(Political Stream) (Kingdon, J.W. 2011)

POLITICAL STREAM

- Swings of mood (political support changes)
- Vagarious public opinion (public opinion changes)
- Election results (new leadership and new agendas)
- Changes of administration (new rules, policies)
- Shifts in partisan or ideological distribution
- Interest group pressure campaigns (phone calls, letter writing, direct lobbying)

(Political Stream) (Kingdon, J.W. 2011)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Bill Development

- Legislative Sponsor
- Prepared & put in proper format
- Assigned the bill a title number

Floor Action (voted out of committee)

- First Reading: information stage, alerts that bill will be considered
- Second Reading: sent to Rules Committee
- Reviews bill to determine destination
- Third Reading: depends on majority floor leader
  - Final vote is taken

(Passage)

- Must be approved by 2/3 of the members.
- Majority of the members must be present & voting.

If bill passes in one house then sent to other chamber to follow same procedure (voted in previous slide).
- Both chambers must agree on the final form of the bill.
- Bill is signed by both presiding members → sent to governor

After general assembly adjourns → bill becomes law in 90 days

(Passage) (Kingdon, J.W. 2011)
GETTING STARTED

- Get to know your legislator
  - If you are not sure who represents you:
    http://www.votesmart.org or http://www.lrc.state.ky.us

- Call, write, email, fax, meet in person
  - Personal handwritten notes
  - Be on time for appointments
  - Focus on the constituency

- Identify who you represent

Be polite, be brief and be specific

Follow up with written thank you note

Focus on the constituency

References

- Legislative Research Commission. The Road to Passage: How a bill becomes a law. Kentucky State Government, Frankfort KY
- Schuster, S.A. handout “Meeting with legislators: do’s and don’ts” Louisville KY www.advocacyaction.net

Additional Information

- Kentucky Coalition Nurse Practitioners Nurse Midwives (KCNPHM)
  http://www.kcnpnm.org
- American Association Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
  http://www.aanp.org/
- American Nurses Association (ANA)
  http://nursingworld.org/
- Kentucky Nurses Association (KNA)
  http://www.kentucky-nurses.org
- KY Bill Watch
  https://secure.kentucky.gov/Portal/Logout.aspx
- Who's My Legislator?
  http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/
- Kentucky Advanced Practice Political Action Committee (KAP-PAC)
  http://www.kap-pac.com