AACN’s Advocacy at Work for You
Grassroots Network

Since 2008, AACN’s Grassroots Network has been instrumental in keeping members apprised of the association’s advocacy work and alerting them when critical action is needed on legislation or a Congressional action impacting nursing education, research, or practice. Current members of the network include deans, directors, faculty, students, and other interested stakeholders. Over the past five years, the network has grown from 600 members to over 10,000.

To join AACN’s Grassroots Network, visit http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/take-action.

Policy Beat

AACN’s Policy Beat is a free monthly newsletter for our members and the Grassroots Network. Articles in Policy Beat provide the inside track on what is happening in the nation’s capital regarding healthcare policy through a nursing lens. To sign up for the newsletter, visit http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/subscribe.

Action Alerts

When critical, time-sensitive issues emerge on Capitol Hill, AACN will mobilize the Grassroots Network to send messages to elected officials. These Action Alerts are a vital part of AACN’s advocacy efforts, as legislators give the greatest credence to messages from their constituents. Working together, the Grassroots Network can have a profound impact. On average, network members send nearly 1,500 messages each year.
Updates
AACN is dedicated to keeping our members informed about the issues that matter most. In order to ensure that our constituents have access to the most up-to-date information, AACN periodically sends breaking news Updates to members of the Grassroots Network detailing the latest developments linked to AACN issues of interest.

State Grassroots Liaisons
State Grassroots Liaisons (SLGs) are AACN member deans and directors who assist the Government Affairs Committee by bridging connections between our association and their Members of Congress. SGLs also provide a critical link to policy issues at the state level and bolster AACN’s advocacy efforts when timely action is needed. To learn more, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/sgl.

University Government Relations Collaborative
The purpose of the University Government Relations Collaborative (UGRC) is to provide government relations (GR) staff at member schools with a direct link to AACN’s Government Affairs department concerning nursing education advocacy initiatives and other federal policy work. This collaborative strives to ensure that GR representatives are armed with the most current advocacy efforts to help promote a clear, consistent, and unified message. Deans/directors interested in appointing representatives to the collaborative may see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/ugrc for more information.

Policy Conferences

Student Policy Summit
Each spring, AACN hosts a Student Policy Summit for undergraduate and graduate nursing students enrolled in member schools. This three-day immersion program is held in Washington, DC and provides students the opportunity to hear from nursing’s top policy leaders and gain skills in interacting with policy makers. Students travel to Capitol Hill and meet with members of Congress and their staff. For more information, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/student-policy-summit.

Faculty Policy Intensive
The Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) is a four-day program designed for faculty members who are interested in healthcare policy. To maximize the richness and individual impact of the FPI, only eight faculty are chosen to attend this fully-funded event. Faculty are provided opportunities such as honing their elevator speech, learning the skills of policy writing, meeting with national policy leaders, and understanding the role of regulatory work. At the conclusion of the program, participants become AACN Faculty Policy Fellows who serve as advocates for AACN and help inform our policy work. For more information, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi.
Resources

Policy Briefs
AACN Policy Briefs are concise analyses of issues that affect nursing education, practice, and research. These informative documents provide an overview of an issue, including why it matters to nursing and its potential impact. Policy Briefs are excellent tools of instruction for personal, professional, or classroom use and may also be left with elected officials as a source of reference. To view AACN Policy Briefs, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/resources/policy-briefs.

Policy Webinars
Each year, AACN hosts several webinars on key policy issues. Recent topics have included implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the importance of local advocacy. To stay abreast of new webinar announcements, sign up for Policy Beat. For more information about upcoming AACN webinars or to view past webinars, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/webinars.

Advocacy Handbook: From Patient Advocacy to Political Activism
This booklet is a valuable introduction to advocacy for the nurse or nursing student seeking to engage in the policy process. The guide contains an overview of the importance of nurses becoming advocates, a summary of the central issues, and helpful hints for interacting with Congress. This document is a useful resource for both beginner and experienced advocates. Access From Patient Advocacy to Political Activism here: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/resources.

For questions regarding AACN’s advocacy efforts or resources, please contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

For more information:
AACN’s Government Affairs Website: http://www.aacnh.nche.edu/government-affairs
State Advocacy: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/state-advocacy
Supported Legislation: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/support-legislation
Appropriations Advocacy: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/appropriations

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