

Introduction

Legislation and regulations are critically important to the CNS role and safe patient care, however, CNSs identify barriers to engaging in legislative and regulatory efforts at both the state and federal levels. Federal and state regulations require reform as the demand for health care increases and need for the CNS role. Working with elected officials is challenging but rewarding as you watch legislation grow from an idea to a signed law.

It is essential that we, as CNSs, understand and act on legislation with a sense of purpose for our practice. From title protection to practice authority to prescription privileges, CNSs must partner with other APRNs and elected officials to advance the scope of APRN practice.

We are proud to present this tool kit to guide you on your journey to impact change that will affect patients, families, nursing colleagues, and employers.

Overview of the Toolkit

The kit provides facts and guides on how to begin your involvement with legislative processes. Most importantly it explains how to become familiar with your representatives, who makes these regulatory changes happen. The kit describes how to prepare for a visit, what to say during the visit, and importantly, follow-up activities. Development of legislation is also important to understand so the kit helps to guide your understanding of the development of legislation.

Each state has unique challenges in implementing standards affecting APRN practice. The outcome of new standards leads to needed change in regulation and legislation in order for APRNs to fully practice. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) closely monitors each state's progression to APRN full practice authority. Using the maps provided on the NCSBN website can help you research states that have been successful in APRN regulation. (<https://www.ncsbn.org/aprn.htm>)

In addition, efforts to inform the public about CNS practice and legislation that may affect the practice are imperative. You will find

tools that describe the benefit of writing to your local newspaper editor as a means to inform and explain to others about health care or practice issues. It is also important for CNSs to have a presence on regulatory boards in each state. The kit provides information on how to get appointed to the Board of Nursing in your state.

Other resources in the kit include letters written by the Federal Trade Commission in support of advanced practice nursing, facts about the Consensus Model and the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing.

The final section contains articles on the regulation of CNS practice, which provide additional information on working at the state level to influence CNS practice.

We hope that this kit will be helpful to you as you develop legislative and regulatory advocacy for CNS practice. As always, the NACNS is here to help you be successful in changing practice for CNSs within your state.

Legislative and Regulatory Committee