



LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE TOOLKIT

NURSES • LEADERS • YOU



ADVOCACY • STRATEGY • SOLUTIONS

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Let's Work Together to Make the Voices of Nurses Heard



Your Voice Can Influence

As grassroots activism grows in importance, we hear increasingly about how the number of constituent phone calls, letters, and emails to the office of a member of the legislature affects important votes on legislation. Voices of constituents calling/emailing legislators and through other venues, such as radio talk shows and blogs, are becoming increasingly influential in the debates on major issues.

Public officials are more attuned than ever to the views of their constituents and, in particular, large constituent groups.

Legislative network activity is a permanent and ongoing vehicle for making nursing's voice heard on workplace, education, quality, and economic issues. Any nurse who is a member of FNA can participate in our grassroots activism. All that is required is enthusiasm and concern about the issues that matter the most to nurses. The greater our numbers, the more effective FNA will be!



Make Your Voice Heard in Tallahassee

Every day, politicians make decisions affecting nurse employment, work benefits, and a wide range of other issues of concern to nurses as providers and consumers of healthcare. It is especially important for nurses to be a part of the healthcare policy dialogue in order to maintain and enhance nurses' pivotal role in the delivery of healthcare.

Are your legislators paying attention to your interests? Legislators do care about how their constituents feel about issues. At the same time, they are trying to be experts on numerous issues, and they are hearing the opinions of many other groups who may not share your opinions and viewpoints on an issue. When your legislator goes to vote on proposed legislation, he or she wants to know how many folks back home called or wrote for and against an issue.

In addition to actions in the legislature, many policy decisions in Tallahassee are made by policy decisions of the Executive Branch. It may be helpful to call a particular Agency Head, Cabinet Member or the Governor to register your opinion as well.

By taking just a few minutes to pick up the phone and make a short call and write an email, you will be playing a critical role in making nurses heard in the policy making process. As our members' voices are collected and registered in the policymaker's office, FNA's position will be heard loud and clear.

At the same time you are taking action, other segments of FNA's public policy team (such as media spokespersons, lobbyists, and policy analysts) will be representing nurses' interest in other ways – but it is the voice and participation of our members that is essential in driving the FNA's message home.

Ideas for Effective State Government Relations

- ▶ Members of the Florida Legislature come to Tallahassee to do something, and those who urge them to simply oppose measures coming before the Legislature aren't helping members win re-election—which is a primary focus for elected members and their staff.
- ▶ Politicians have egos—SURPRISE! They like to be thanked, and especially like to be thanked in ways that deliver positive news reports to their constituents during campaign cycles.
- ▶ Victory in Tallahassee usually means passing a bill or enacting a regulation—whether the bill or regulation really works is largely immaterial. In fact, the best victories for the Legislature are short-term.
- ▶ Win/Win strategies and consensus are great precepts for those in the private sector. But when it comes to members of the Florida Legislature and Florida Cabinet, victory in November in even-numbered years comes only when your opponent loses—so win/win opportunities are of markedly less interest as elections approach.
- ▶ Politicians raise money to buy ads and otherwise reach voters. Individual membership groups can short-circuit the money-raising process if they can deliver valued channels of communication to enough voters in key districts.
- ▶ Unusual alliances produce unusually rapid public policy results.
- ▶ Broad alliances are vital in achieving public policy success, ideally converting a “special interest” to a “public interest” posture.

Ten Commandments for Successful Communication with Your Legislator

I THOU SHALT NOT LIE to thy legislator.
Thy sins will find thee out and thou shalt nevermore be believed by them.

VI THOU SHALT NOT INSIST thy legislator desert their party policy.
Verily, an excommunicated legislator serveth no one well.

II THOU SHALT NOT FORGET TO THANK thy legislator for their help. *Ingratitude turneth away a legislator as surely as a soft word turneth away wrath.*

VII THOU SHALT NOT FAIL TO RECOGNIZE the importance of thy legislator’s office.
One who maketh another feel important maketh a lasting friend.

III THOU SHALT NOT IGNORE thy legislator between sessions. *Seekest thou them only in thy hour of need and thou may find them deaf to thy pleas.*

VIII THOU SHALT NOT FORGET thy legislator too hath problems and sometimes needeth help. *Bread cast upon the waters returneth hundredfold.*

IV THOU SHALT NOT BE HYPER-CRITICAL of thy legislator voting on any bill. *Alienate them not as thou shalt surely need them on another occasion.*

IX THOU SHALT NOT BECOME COMPLETELY PARTISAN. *Thou must be prepared to live with either party, and sometimes thou must liveth both at once.*

V THOU SHALT NOT HESITATE TO PRAISE thy legislator publicly for their good works.
They runneth for office and all kind words are as manna from Heaven.

X THOU SHALT NOT NIT PICK. *Heckle not thy legislator with insignificant matters and they will heareth better thy counsel on important ones.*

Lawmakers want to hear from their constituents.

Lawmakers also need to hear from others outside of their districts to gauge the widespread concern of an issue. Respectfully remind them that even though you do not live in their district, their actions on issues that affect you make you their constituent also.

Elected officials do not like to deal with “hot” issues. If they see a grassroots swell of opposition to a controversial bill, they will try to avoid addressing that issue with a public vote.

Here’s the order in which you need to consider contacting legislatures on our issues:

1. Contact Elected Officials from your District

Your voter registration card will show your districts for county, state, and federal offices. For state bills, your local state representative and senator need to be contacted early and often.

2. Contact Committee Members

As a bill moves through the process, it is heard by different House and Senate Committees. Consult “Online Sunshine,” the sponsor’s office or the committee offices to get current information on the next step in the process and hearing dates and times.

3. Contact Newly Elected Members

Nursing and healthcare are perennial legislative issues. Overtime, nurses have worked hard to educate, make friends, and gain support from incumbent members who are familiar with and sympathetic to FNA’s issues. However, we must also focus on the newly elected members who may not be as well informed on our issues. You can find a list of newly elected members by consulting “Online Sunshine.”

4. Contact Governor, President, and Speaker

These three positions are the most powerful in the state. The Senate President and House Speaker are not only the leaders of their chambers, they are also the lead person of their party. They have the power to direct issues that they want promoted or killed. The Governor is the one to either sign or veto a bill which has passed both chambers. The Governor is sensitive to the voice of the people as well, though his decision is not quite as dependent on public sentiment as individual legislators. These leaders do not want to deal with highly controversial issues either. Don’t forget to contact these individuals when you write or call. They are key to the process and can make or break the passage of a bill with a phone call.

Top 10 Most Effective Methods for Contacting Legislators

1. Face-to-Face Individual Visit
2. Interaction on Social Media
3. Face-to-Face Group Visit
4. Telephone Call
5. Handwritten Letters
6. Emails
7. Resolution Passed by an Organization
8. Petition
9. News Report of Group/Individual Position
10. Form Letter

General Suggestions for Meeting with Legislators

1. Be flexible with your time.

Be flexible in the times you are available to see the legislator, scheduling as far ahead as possible. Be prepared to suggest or accept alternative appointments, including meetings with a key staffer.

2. Be on time and prepared.

The legislator has many time commitments during the session. Be courteous by being on time and prepared.

3. Know who you are talking to.

Learn something about each legislator before you meet him or her.

4. Understand the legislative process.

Understand how a bill becomes a law. See “How an Idea Becomes a Law” in the Resources section of this book.

5. Never underestimate the power of a legislative aide.

Due to their contacts with constituents, the aides can advise a legislator on constituency interest on a project or bill and, therefore, can advocate your position if you meet with them. Enlist their help. Always be courteous to them.

6. Prepare your case and be clear.

Be clear about what result you want from the meeting. Know your special category project and be specific about the project’s benefits to your community.

7. Be brief and to the point.

8. Never lie, never lie, never lie.

If you don’t know the answer, there is no shame in admitting it. Promise to get back with the information, and then be sure to follow through.

9. Appoint a single, articulate, and organized spokesperson.

If you are in a group, appoint a spokesperson, and be sure to introduce all members of the group and their interest in the project.

10. Be courteous and friendly.

Never embarrass or threaten a legislator.

11. Acknowledge the existence and arguments of opposing sides on a controversial issue.

Be prepared with facts of your own that refute your opponents’ arguments.

12. Ask for support.

Before leaving, try to summarize the major points of your discussion and ask for the legislator’s support on your issues. Try to frame your request in a maximum of 3 critical issues.

13. Thank the lawmaker for his or her time and concern.

Leave your business card or some memento of your special category project.

14. Follow up with a thank you note.

When you return home, send a thank you note to all legislators and aides with whom you met to remind them of your project and interests.

10 Things to Remember When Lobbying

LOBBY: To try and influence (an official) to take a desired action.

1. Stay Well Informed.

Read the local newspaper. Pay attention to local TV news reports. Do research—understand the process. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Know the opposition's position.

2. Take Charge.

Take responsibility for getting information to and from legislative staff. If part of an organization, put someone in charge. Analyze proposed solutions and determine how it will meet your needs.

3. Get Personally Acquainted.

Make it your business to become personally acquainted with your representative. Get to know the key staff. Meet with your legislator regularly.

4. Be Prepared To Act Quickly.

Remember the old saying... "It ain't over 'til it's over!" Be able to respond on short notice. Have important numbers and key contacts handy.

5. Contact Your Legislator.

Write letters and emails —Be logical, state your position, and ask for support. Make phone calls—be polite and get to the point. Make appointments—this is the best way to communicate your point of view.

6. Identify and Respond to Legislators' Concerns.

Know who else has contacted the legislator. Anticipate and be prepared to respond to any concerns.

7. Identify Political Forces at Work.

Know who else has contacted the legislator. Anticipate and be prepared to respond to any concerns.

8. Tell Official Specifically What You Want.

If they don't know, they can't help. Think through the problem. Know what action will meet your needs.

9. Never Provide False Information.

Credibility. Trust. Integrity.

10. If You Don't Know, Say So!

Don't feel as if you have to know everything. Don't create an answer. Let your legislator know you will research information and respond.

11. Courtesy is the Best Policy.

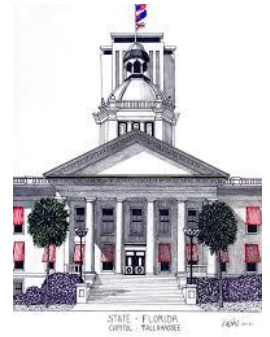
Always say thank you. Treat officials as you wish to be treated. Stick to it!



Things to Remember When Lobbying in Tallahassee

While in Tallahassee...

- ▶ Smile at everyone you see at or near the Capitol. That person may be the legislator or aide you will need to speak with later. Say hello too, if appropriate.
- ▶ Be careful what you say anywhere in Tallahassee, e.g., restaurants, shops, restrooms, etc.
- ▶ It's good to wear a small pin or button appropriate to the issue you are lobbying.
- ▶ Neatness counts. Try to dress as if you were going to a job interview or important appointment.



Geography of the Capitol

- ▶ Refer to the maps you have.
- ▶ Walkways connecting the House and Senate Office Buildings to the Capitol are only on the 2nd and 3rd floors.
- ▶ House and Senate Journals and Calendars can be picked up at room 334 Capitol for the House, and room 310 Capitol for the Senate. These offices are in the Rotunda area on the 3rd floor of the Capitol.
- ▶ You can pick up bill copies (by number) in room 513 for the House and room 303 for the Senate.
- ▶ There is a public cafeteria on the lower level of the Capitol and a café on the 10th floor.
- ▶ The House Office Building is to the right of the Capitol, if you are facing it from the old Capitol side, and the Senate Office Building is on the left.
- ▶ Decide which legislators you wish to see and on which bills.
- ▶ If you wish to watch a Committee meeting, go to the room designated at the time on the Calendar.
- ▶ If you wish to visit a legislator, go to the office listed in your directory (the buddy system is fine).

Introduce Yourself

- ▶ Ask for an appointment with the legislator first. If he/she is unavailable, ask for an aide.
- ▶ Mention where you are from, if visiting a home legislator.
- ▶ Mention whom you are with.
- ▶ Let the legislator (or aide) know the bill you are supporting or opposing and describe it briefly.
- ▶ Ask how the legislator stands (unless you are positive you already know his or her position).
- ▶ Let the legislator (or aide) talk, don't interrupt. You are there to discuss the legislator's stand.
- ▶ Listen and try to find out what the legislator thinks.
- ▶ If the legislator supports your position, ask for advice. If not, discuss briefly your own reasons for supporting or opposing the bill. Speak from the heart and give examples.

Avoid Arguing

- ▶ Don't be afraid to admit you don't know something. Don't give information or quote statistics you're not sure of. Offer to research and get back to the legislator with answers.
- ▶ Leave the legislator with a friendly feeling and the way open for another meeting.
- ▶ Thank the legislator (or aide) for his or her time. Follow up on any information promised.
- ▶ If you see or visit known friends, thank them for their support.

Don't...

- ▶ Wing it when you aren't sure of the facts; it's too easy to lose credibility.
- ▶ Hold a grudge. Your adversary today may be an ally tomorrow. Personalizing it is dangerous.
- ▶ Confuse little issues with major ones.
- ▶ Make the elected official or staff look bad or bad mouth other elected officials.

Guidelines for Personal Visits

1. Plan Ahead

Call the member's office to make an appointment. Expect to wait anywhere from a few days to two weeks to see the member in person. Call for an Appointment: When calling for the appointment, tell the legislative aide the purpose of the visit - including the title and number of the bill (if you know it) - and the amount of time you think you'll need. Legislators often allow for more time if conducting a meeting in their district office. For visits in their Capitol office, the standard amount of time for a meeting is about 15 minutes. Remember, the more time you need, the longer you'll be waiting to get the appointment.

2. Convey Time Sensitivity

If the purpose of your visit is time sensitive – for instance, if the bill is scheduled for a vote within days – politely explain the urgency to the legislative aide. If the personal visit cannot be scheduled in time, instead ask if there is a convenient time to discuss by telephone.

3. Don't Be Rude or Threatening, EVER

Being rude, aggressive or threatening in requesting, or even demanding a meeting, is a sure-fire way to be ignored, and may even have a negative impact on your issue.

4. Arrive on Time

Arrive for your appointment on time, but be patient if the member is not on time, even if the meeting needs to be rescheduled. Try to remember the demands placed on members working through hundreds of bills during session!

5. Prepare Your Presentation

Prepare your presentation to be brief, concise, and accurate. Don't tell the member every detail you may know about the issue; keep it basic and focus on the most important points. Offer more information if they are interested, but don't insist that they know all there is to know.

6. Show Interest

Show that you are interested in the member's perspective, and that you respect the member's right to disagree, if they do. Offer information to counter their opposing views without becoming argumentative.

7. Ask for Assistance or Support

Just like you would in a letter, request specific assistance or support for your position. If you leave with their commitment, great! If you leave without a commitment, try to find out what additional information they need for a decision.

8. Thank the Member

Thank the members for their time when you leave their offices, and follow-up with a thank you note. If you received a commitment, thank them for that as well.

9. Follow up

After the member acts or votes, send a note to (hopefully) thank them for their favorable action. If the member did not act or vote as you had hoped, send a note reminding the member of your interest and seek to keep the lines of communication open for the future.

Calling Your Legislators



Your goal when calling a legislator is to provide the key pieces of information he or she needs: your name, your city and county (it helps to leave your full address, but it is most important to let the office know that you are a constituent), your occupation as a nurse, the reason for your call (stated in a few words), any bill number or title (if available), and your position on the issue.

Staff assistants answer most calls to a legislator's office. Since others will be trying to reach your legislator as well, you may not get through the first time you try. Call back or try a different time of day if the line is busy.

When your call is answered, ask to speak with the person who handles health care legislation for the legislator. If that person is not available, leave your message with whoever can speak with you.

Tips for Telephoning Your Legislators

- ▶ Call at a reasonable hour.
- ▶ Leave a message if the legislator is unavailable. The legislator's secretary will normally answer the phone.
- ▶ Know the bill number and title you are calling about. The legislature considers over 2,000 bills each year and it is necessary to refer to the bill by its number when calling.
- ▶ Organize the points you want to cover and be brief. Legislators are very busy and can't afford to spend long periods of time on the telephone.
- ▶ Consult "Online Sunshine" to find the direct number of your legislator.

Sample Call to Legislator

Hello, this is (INSERT YOUR NAME HERE) and I am a registered nurse in (INSERT YOUR CITY HERE). May I please speak with the person who handles healthcare issues?

I am calling because I want to let Senator (INSERT SENATOR NAME HERE) know that I am very concerned about (INSERT ISSUE HERE — include the bill number and title, describe the issue, detailing how the bill will affect your role in healthcare).

It is critical that the Senator (SUPPORT or OPPOSE) the issue, (INSERT NAME OR BILL DESCRIPTION HERE) because (INSERT REASON HERE— Give one to three very brief reasons, such as "We can all save money without sacrificing the quality of healthcare if the provision passes" or "We as nurses are already trained to provide this service.") Many of my nursing colleagues share my concern regarding this.

My name, address, phone number, and/or email address are (INSERT HERE). Please make sure that the Senator knows that I (support/oppose bill or issue name). Thank you for your time.

Legislators take note of all letters from their constituents, but many say they devote the most attention to letters that are original and thoughtful (not forms or letters that are mass produced) .

It is important to clearly identify your subject matter and viewpoint, perhaps by making a key statement in a single paragraph or using bold or underline for emphasis. Letters provide the opportunity to say more than you might be able to say during a brief telephone call, but you do not want your message to become lost because you are raising too many topics in the letter.

Therefore, please create your own letter using the ideas suggested to you. Letters and other correspondences that have been “localized” carry much greater weight with legislators than a standard form letter.

Tips for Writing Your Legislators

- ▶ Use their names. Do not send letters addressed to “Senator” or “Representative from District XX.”
- ▶ Use proper form of address and salutation on the letter and envelope (i.e., Honorable Jane Doe, or Honorable Senator Jane Doe).
- ▶ Clearly identify the issue or the bill you are writing about by its title and bill number to avoid any confusion.
- ▶ Make the letter timely.
- ▶ Make the letter accurate and sincere. Relate your concern as a personal one when possible, give reasons for your position, and tell how the bill or issue will impact you and others.
- ▶ Ask for specific assistance or support of your position.
- ▶ Individual letters are preferable. Double check the letter to make sure it is legible, professional, and well-written.
- ▶ Always include your mailing address, telephone number, and email address for a response. Make sure your return address is on the envelope.
- ▶ Don't be rude or threatening - EVER! Threatening letters go directly into the wastebasket.
- ▶ After the requested action, a letter to say “thank you” is always appreciated.

Sample Letter to a Legislator

Robin Jones, RN
321 Broadway Lane
Orlando, FL 32828

January 12, 2016

The Honorable Elaine Adams
100 Capitol Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Representative Adams:

As a Registered Nurse and parent living in your district, I see every day how important the children's health provision in the Health Care Reorganization Act, HB 1234, would be in making sure that children receive preventive healthcare.

Nurses and other healthcare providers spend great amounts of time caring for sick children who might not be sick if they had preventive healthcare. Children are brought to the emergency rooms at the last minute because they did not receive regular or preventive care. These emergency room visits cost society an inordinate amount of money. This money could be spent on other important things if children have adequate preventive healthcare!

I urge you to support the children's health provision in HB 1234.

Thank you for your help with this important legislation. Florida's nurses are working hard to support responsible healthcare policies.

Sincerely,

Robin Jones, RN

Emailing Your Legislators

Email has changed the way we communicate and in many ways has replaced other forms of communication, such as phone calls or handwritten letters. This technological tool is fast, cheap, and efficient. If you use e-mail to communicate with your legislator, you should do so in the context of an ongoing relationship in which you use other methods as the foundation of your communication.



To construct an e-mail with impact, follow these steps:

1. State that you are a constituent in the subject line.

For example – Subject: Message from a constituent on xyz issue. Most legislators have their staff sort and respond to their e-mail, and this strategy will increase the likelihood that your message is read.

2. State your request concisely.

View your message as different from a traditional letter. E-mail is less formal and much briefer than traditional written communication. Construct your message accordingly – keep it concise and short.

3. Provide personal examples and local context.

Use similar principals as those in letter writing, but in a more concise format. If you are sending a generic e-mail written by a group of which you are a part, insert personal examples in the message.

4. Persuade a like-minded friend, family member, or colleague to send an e-mail as well.

Quantity is critical. Legislators pay attention to issues when they believe that many of their constituents care about an issue. One e-mail is not convincing.

5. Report your e-mail.

If the e-mail is initiated by an organization, ask if they want you to report your e-mail. Some groups can monitor responses electronically without your having to report, but most will want you to let them know. If you persuaded a friend, let them know that your friend will be reporting as well. Make sure that your friend follows through.

6. Follow up.

Because the impact of e-mail varies widely from legislator to legislator, be sure that you are using other methods to communicate with your legislator. Follow your e-mail with a phone call, handwritten letter, or visit.

7. Communicate more than once.

As with all other forms of communicating, view your e-mail as part of an ongoing relationship. Keep in touch and tune in to your legislator and his or her position on the issue.

Contacting the Governor and Executive Branch Officials

The information provided about contacting a legislator by telephone or letter is applicable to contacting the governor's office or an Executive Branch official as well. We all are "constituents" of the Executive Branch. Your message may be about a policy issue or proposed rule rather than about a vote on proposed legislation, but the process is the same. Identify who you are, your occupation, the subject matter you are calling or writing about, and your opinion in a brief and persuasive manner.

Media Relations

We obtain a lot of our information from the media – newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and the Internet. What the general public knows about something is usually based on what people receive from the media.

The media influence the political process directly. How people react to politicians – and how politicians vote on issues – is directly related to what appears in the media.

The primary goal is to enable nurses to take an activist role on issues that affect our profession. Media involvement will help us accomplish that goal by:

- ▶ Making sure that our messages are heard by people who influence jobs, pay, and policy.
- ▶ Enhancing the image of nurses as the single largest profession within the health care delivery system.
- ▶ Helping the public become better informed about the critical roles that nurses play in health care delivery, especially in preventive and primary care.

You are not expected to become a media expert. But with a basic understanding of how the media works and how you can work with the media, you can significantly influence public opinion in your community.

The media is inherently interested in healthcare delivery. They want to know not just what legislation is being passed, but what the new legislation means to people in your local area. Healthcare quality, cost, access, and delivery will continue to be a topic of interest for the foreseeable future.

As a nurse, you are an expert in the eyes of your local media in understanding how the healthcare delivery system works and what can be done to make it function better for patients.



What You Can Do...

Read and View the Media

Make a list of all the media in your area that, in your view, are influential. This will include newspapers, television stations, and radio stations. Monitor the list of media. This means reading the stories that involve health issues affecting nursing, especially the role of nursing, and watching and listening to radio and television news and talk shows when health care topics arise.

Call Radio and TV Talk Shows

Talk shows are becoming more and more important in influencing the political debate. National talk shows are certainly important, but so are local talk shows in your area. These shows frequently address important national and local issues such as health access and financing healthcare. Policymakers are greatly influenced by the debate emanating from these shows. We strongly encourage you to:

- ▶ Be aware of the radio and TV talk shows in your area that deal with health or political issues.
- ▶ Listen to these shows when you can.
- ▶ Call the talk show when a nursing issue is being discussed. Identify yourself as a nurse and espouse nursing's view. Contact FNA for talking points on important issues.

Write Letters to the Editor

Every newspaper has a “letters to the editor” section on the editorial page. This page provides an opportunity to express your point of view on stories that appear in the newspaper or on issues of the day. The editors of the newspaper will be especially interested in your reaction to their editorials.

FNA encourages you to write letters to the editor. Such letters should be short (no more than 350 words) and should state, in the first sentence, what the letter is responding to.

For example, you may say, “In your editorial on December 15 on ‘Healthcare Access,’ you said...” or “In your news article, ‘The Governor pushes Health Care Reform (Page A7, December 14, 2017),’ ‘The Governor said...” You would then go on to react to the statement and express your point of view.

We also encourage you to urge your colleagues to write letters to the editor. The more they appear, the better for our efforts in educating the public about nursing’s agenda for health care reform and the pivotal role of nurses in the health care delivery system.

One final point: Local newspapers, even big ones, like the local angle. If you can use local examples of how a particular policy will affect patients in your community, it will increase the chances of your story being published.



FNA Spotlight Health Policy Special Interest Group (HP-SIG)

About

HP-SIG is FNA's leader of grass roots initiatives for public policy change that enhance the health and well-being of all Floridians.

Mission

To encourage and support all nurses to become engaged in the policy and legislative process to improve the health status of our communities and the practice and working environments of nurses.

Goals

- ▶ To develop and maintain a network for communication
- ▶ Develop and maintain education and information resources
- ▶ Promote and support health policy agendas that benefit all Florida RN/ARNPs regarding health policy, legislation, scope of practice, patient advocacy, quality outcomes and work environment safety.

Chairperson: Karen Perez

Monthly Conference Call: Second Tuesday of every month @ 7pm EST/6pm CST

Call or Email FNA to
learn more about
getting involved!

Phone: 407-896-3261

Email: govt@floridanurse.org

Get Involved with FNA Advocacy

What is a Legislative District Coordinator (LDC)?

Legislative District Coordinators (LDCs) are the heart and soul of FNA's Governmental Relations Program. They are Florida Nurses Association members who engage in various political activities to represent FNA's political positions on legislative issues that affect Florida nurses. LDCs come from both major political parties with a healthy respect for the individual rights of members to disagree with FNA positions, and a commitment to always report FNA positions when speaking within an official LDC capacity.

What Does a LDC Do?

- ▶ Organizes nurses within his/her neighborhood/community to work on political campaigns.
- ▶ Establishes a rapport with his/her legislator and his/her staff so that when an FNA issue is ready for consideration, the legislator remembers his/her FNA contact on the issue.
- ▶ Contacts nurses in his/her neighborhood about FNA positions on issues and urges the nurses to join FNA and become a political nurse.
- ▶ Organizes, along with other LDCs in the area, a legislative reception where nurses and legislators discuss issues.
Receives all FNA Political Action Commentaries and Alerts during legislative sessions and committee hearing weeks and shares the information with as many nurses as possible asking them to contact legislators to support FNA's positions.
- ▶ Sends a lobby report form from FNA to lobbyists when an interesting contact is made regarding an FNA issue.
- ▶ Interviews legislators and candidates for office and reports how they stand on FNA issues.
- ▶ Makes a recommendation for the Florida Nurses Political Action Committee's consideration regarding political endorsement and/or degree of financial support to offer candidates.
- ▶ Has fun! As U.S. Senator Bob Graham says, "Politics is fun!"

Help Florida Nurses
PAC a Powerful Punch!



SUPPORT **FNPAC** - BECOME A **LDC**



If you have any questions, or would like more information on becoming an LDC, please contact:

Bibi Lowton

Florida Nurses Association

P.O. Box 536985

Orlando, FL 32853

govt@floridanurse.org

Quick Reference Guide – Legislators

Executive Leadership

Governor of Florida – Ron DeSantis
Citizen's Hot Line: (850) 488-7146
Web: www.flgov.com

Lieutenant Governor of Florida – Jeanette Nunez
Phone: (850) 488-7146
Web: www.ltgov.com

Commissioners

Florida Department of Education – Richard Corcoran
Phone: (850) 245-0505
Email: Commissioner@fldoe.org

Department of Agriculture – Nicole "Nikki" Fried
Phone: (850) 617-7700
Email: commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us

Supreme Court Leadership

Supreme Court of Florida Chief Justice - Jorge Labarga
Phone: (850) 413-8371
Web: www.supermecourt@flcourts.org

Florida Senate Leadership

Senate President – Senator Bill Galvano
Tallahassee Office Phone: (850) 487-5229
District Office Phone: (941) 741- 3401
Email: galvano.bill.web@flsenate.gov

President Pro Tempore – Senator David Simmons
Tallahassee Office Phone: (850) 487-5009
District Office Phone: (407) 262-7578
Email: simmons.david.web@flsenate.gov

Florida House of Representative Leadership

Speaker of the House – Representative Jose R. Oliva
Tallahassee Office Phone: (850) 717-5000
District Office Phone: (305) 364-3114
Email: Jose.Oliva@myfloridahouse.gov

Democratic Minority Leader – Rep. Kionne L. McGhee
Tallahassee Office Phone: (850) 488-9622
District Office Phone: (305) 256-6301
Email: Kionne.McGhee@myfloridahouse.gov

Speaker pro tempore – Representative MaryLynn Magar
Tallahassee Office: (850) 717-5119
District Office: (727) 545-3481
Email: MaryLynn.Magar@myfloridahouse.gov

Majority Leader – Representative Dana Eagle
Tallahassee Office Phone: (850) 488-1993
District Office Phone: (239) 772-1291
Email: Dane.Eagle@myfloridahouse.gov

*Information is subject to change, reference guide information updated December 2017

Legislative/Government Sites

- ▶ Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services: www.dos.myflorida.com/library-archives
- ▶ Florida City and County Government Reports: www.statelocalgov.net/state-fl.cfm
- ▶ Florida's Health: www.floridahealth.gov/health-enviroments/index.html
- ▶ Florida Health Statistics: www.floridahealth.gov/reports-and-data
- ▶ Florida House of Representatives: www.myfloridahouse.gov
- ▶ Florida Senate: www.flsenate.gov
- ▶ The Florida Monitor: www.oppaga.state.fl.us
- ▶ The Governor and Cabinet: www.myflorida.com/myflorida/cabinet/index.html
- ▶ Census Bureau: www.census.gov
- ▶ Congressional Quarterly: www.cq.com
- ▶ FedNet: www.fednet.net
- ▶ Online Sunshine (portal access to both House and Senate): www.leg.state.fl.us
- ▶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Finder: www.healthfinder.gov
- ▶ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPac): www.medpac.gov
- ▶ US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions: www.help.senate.gov

Health Policy Specific Sites

- ▶ Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics: www.gmu.edu/departments/chpre/index.html
- ▶ Duke Health Policy Cyber Exchange: www.hpolicy.duke.edu/cyberexchange
- ▶ Health Policy Coach/Center for Health Improvement: www.patientengagementhit.com/news/how-health-coaches-drive-patient-healthy-behavior-change

Nursing Related Websites

- ▶ Florida Nurses Association: www.floridanurse.org
- ▶ Florida Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov>
- ▶ American Nurses Association: www.nursingworld.org
- ▶ Florida Center of Nursing: www.flcenterfornursing.org
- ▶ ANA Political Action Committee: nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAPoliticalPower/ANAPAC.aspx
- ▶ Canada's Office of Nursing Policy: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/
- ▶ FL Academy of Family Physician: www.fafp.org

Media Websites

- ▶ ABC News: www.abcnews.com
- ▶ NBC News: www.nbcNews.com
- ▶ CBS News: www.cbsnews.com
- ▶ CNN: www.cnn.com
- ▶ C-SPAN: www.c-span.org

Important Dates

Session Begins: _____ Session Ends: _____

Bills to Track

Bill Number

Bill Title

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

My Legislators

State Senator

Name: _____

Capital Office Phone: _____ Local Office: _____

State Representative

Name: _____

Capital Office Phone: _____ Local Office: _____

Committees

Committees my Senator is on: _____

Committees my Rep. is on: _____

Other Important Contacts

State Legislature Help Desk Phone: _____

Clerk's Office Phone: _____

State Bill Tracking Service Phone: _____

Speaker of the House Name: _____ Phone: _____

Senate President Name: _____ Phone: _____

Secretary of the Senate Name: _____ Phone: _____

Governor's Office Name: _____ Phone: _____

FNA's Legislative Directory and Bill Tracker

On FNA's Legislative Site you can:

- ▶ Review FNA's Legislative Platform
- ▶ Track important Nursing and Healthcare Bills that FNA is monitoring
- ▶ Get involved in FNA advocacy campaigns and lobbying efforts
- ▶ Lookup contact information for your local, state, and federal elected officials
- ▶ Find out what committees your legislators are on
- ▶ Find election and voting information
- ▶ Find out about your local, state, and federal candidates during election cycles
- ▶ Visit the State Legislature site
- ▶ Find news related to Florida healthcare and nursing

Accessing FNA's Nursing Advocacy and Legislative Site

- ▶ From FNA's homepage, www.floridanurse.org, click the **Legislative** tab or go directly to www.floridanurse.org/page/advocacy
- ▶ Go to the Legislative Tools tab to find the Directory and Bill Tracker
- ▶ Use the Home, Directory, Bills, & Votes links at the top to navigate the different features of the Bill Tracker

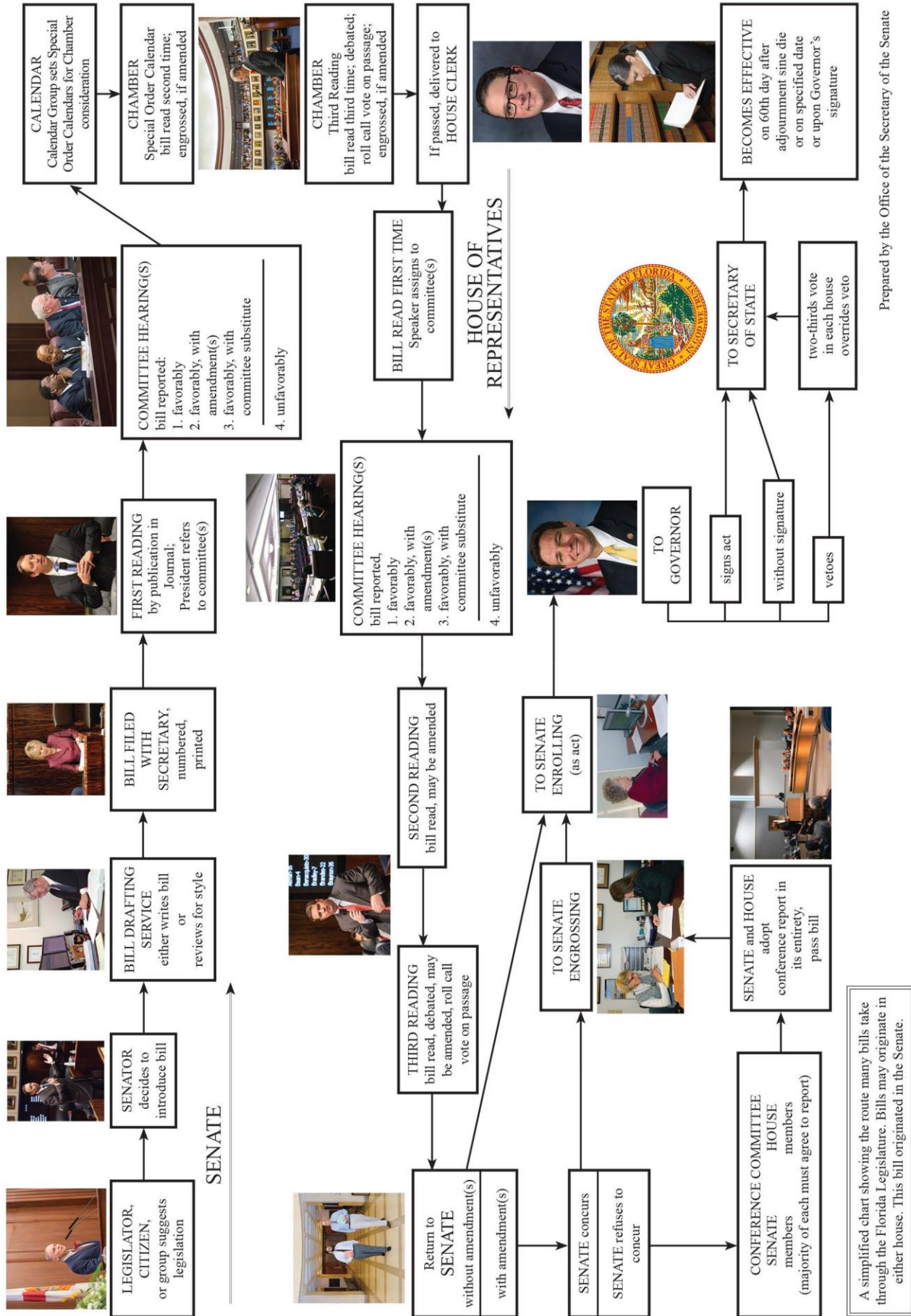
Accessing the Florida State Legislature Site

From the FNA's Advocacy and Legislative page, go to **Legislative Tools** and select **Legislative Links**. From here you can:

- ▶ **Find Members of the Florida Senate and Committees:** Click on flsenate.gov. For members, click on the Senators tab. For all Senate Committees, click on Committees tab.
- ▶ **Access a Copy of the Senate Directory:** Click on flsenate.gov, click on the Reference tab, scroll across to Publications, and then click on Directory.
- ▶ **Find Member of the Florida House of Representatives for and Committees:** Click on myfloridahouse.gov. For members, click on Representatives tab. For all House Committees, click on Committees.
- ▶ **Access a Copy of the House Directory:** Click on myfloridahouse.gov, then click on Public Guide, and under the Printed Directories tab, click on House Directory.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links for Home, Directory, Bills, and Votes. Below this is a dark blue header for 'Our Issues' which contains the text 'There are no action items at this time'. The next section is 'Compose Your Own Message' featuring a small image of a hand writing on a notepad, followed by input fields for 'Street Address' and 'Zip', and a 'GO' button. Below that is a dark blue header for 'Find Your Elected Officials' and a 'Search' section with similar input fields for 'Street Address' and 'Zip', a 'GO' button, and a link to 'Browse by state or last name'.

How an Idea Becomes a Law



A simplified chart showing the route many bills take through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.