

Virtual Hill Day spotlights three key issues

More than 300 enthusiastic and informed nurses attended nearly 325 virtual Congressional meetings from all 50 states during the American Nurses Association (ANA) Virtual Hill Day on June 10.

In videoconferences with Congressional offices, participants focused on three key issues and associated legislation. One priority involves boosting domestic personal protective equipment (PPE) production and promoting a more sustainable supply chain (PPE in America Act; S. 308/H.R. 1436). A second requires the U.S. Department of Labor to establish needed protections from workplace violence in the healthcare and social services sectors (the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act; H.R. 1195). Finally, participants urged continuing the expanded use of telehealth services to deliver cost effective and efficient care (CONNECT for Health Act; S. 1512/H.R. 2903).

Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL) spoke at a brief-



ing in advance of Virtual Hill Day. Co-vice chair of the House Nursing Caucus, Davis thanked the participants “for all the important work you do,” adding, “We know how much you did during this pandemic.”

ANA President Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN, noted, “You don’t just continue to perform your work with grace and care; your presence here today is proof that you share my belief in the value of advocacy—for our profession and our patients.”

In conjunction with Virtual Hill Day, ANA launched a central call to action for all advocates to rally behind. This effort, centered on the PPE in America Act, saw over 2,500 advocates tell their stories and more than 6,000 emails sent to Congress.

ANA suggests that RNs contact their lawmakers to ask them to cosponsor and support the three bills recently introduced in Congress. Stay up to date and get involved at RNAAction.org.

Call for nominations: 2021 ANA National Awards

The call for nominations for the American Nurses Association (ANA) National Awards is underway. ANA members are encouraged to take this opportunity to acknowledge exceptional colleagues for their outstanding contributions and achievements. By identifying those who exemplify the very best, you honor the individual, advance the profession, and educate other health professionals and the general public about the significant contributions of RNs to the delivery of healthcare.

ANA’s National Awards fall into four overarching categories:

Distinguished Practice in Nursing recognizes excellence in the practice, science, and art of nursing and outstanding professional contributions of an ANA member in the areas of clinical care, direct patient care, or public health.

- Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award
- Early Career Nurse Leader Award—New
- Foundations of Nursing Practice Award
- Public Health Service Award

Nursing Pioneers recognizes outstanding contributions to social justice that removed barriers and advanced a culture of equity and inclusion in the nursing profession.

- Luther Christman Award—Reinstated
- Mary Mahoney Award—Reinstated

Nurse Exemplars promotes and underscores ANA’s continuing dedication to the principles of nursing ethics and the highest standards of nursing practice.

- ANA Hall of Fame
- Leadership in Ethics Award

Nursing Champions recognizes outstanding accomplishments in the area of advocacy for the profession of nursing and for ANA.

- Advocacy Award
- Champion of Nursing Award

Nominations will be accepted from individual ANA-constituent/state nurses associations (C/SNA) or Individual Member Division (IMD) members, C/SNAs, and organizational affiliates. Nominations must be submitted by 5 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 1, 2021.

For more information, visit nursingworld.org/national-awards-program-guide. The ANA staff contact is Maureen Thompson, vice president for governance and planning, who can be reached at maureen.thompson@ana.org or (301) 628-5041.