

## Nurses advocating for health



■ Expedited partner therapy ■ Student health ambassadors



# ANA looks to bipartisan legislative solutions in 2019

By Gregory Craig, MPA, MS, and Samuel Hewitt

One of the American Nurses Association's (ANA) most critical functions is to promote and implement a federal legislative agenda that elevates nursing and improves patient care. In 2019, as the 116th Congress gets underway, ANA will focus its legislative efforts in key areas: passage of Title VIII reauthorization for nursing workforce programs, addressing the opioid epidemic and prescriptive authority for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), stabilizing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and preventing gun violence. ANA's legislative priorities are derived from the organization's strategic goals and position statements, emerging issues, and the current political environment.

## Factors influencing policy

A shifting political landscape will significantly impact ANA's legislative efforts in 2019, as Democrats gain control of the majority in the House for the first time since 2011 after midterm elections that saw them pick up 40 seats. This change in leadership will meaningfully alter that chamber's legislative priorities and brings divided government to Washington for the first time since 2016. The Senate remains in Republican control after Republicans picked up a net of two seats in the midterm elections.

Emerging developments in the healthcare and policy environments also affect ANA's legislative priorities. The most pressing emerging development of the last several years is the ongoing opioid epidemic that continues to ravage communities across the country. ANA was pivotal in ensuring that Congress included language regarding permanent prescriptive authority for buprenorphine for nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) and 5-year authority for clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act signed into law on October 24, 2018.

In 2017, ANA's legislative efforts refocused to ensure the preservation of the ACA's consumer and patient protections—particularly protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions and the guaranteed essential health benefits provisions—as the then Republican-controlled House of Representatives and Senate and the Trump administration rolled out several legislative proposals to undo

those protections. These efforts, commonly known as “repeal and replace,” were unsuccessful. Nurses around the country rallied to oppose the efforts through ANA's political action center, weighing in countless times to make their voices heard by members of Congress.

The opioid epidemic continues to impact individuals and families across the country, while issues such as commonsense, bipartisan gun violence prevention gain traction in the new Congress. Congress also is expected to consider bipartisan legislative proposals related to ACA market stabilization.

In addition to key issues such as safe staffing, safe patient handling and mobility, and workplace violence, here's a look at several legislative priorities for 2019.

## Passage of Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act

Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act authorizes Nursing Workforce Development Programs, which support RN and APRN education and training programs across the country. The House passed the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2018—sponsored by Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH)—on July 23, 2018 by voice vote. The Senate, however, failed to pass the House-passed version before the end of the 115th Congress, meaning that both chambers will have to vote on a newly introduced bill in the 116th Congress. ANA is working with the House and Senate to resolve policy differences between chambers on the latest draft of Title VIII reauthorization legislation.



(Clockwise, from upper right) Iowa Nurses Association President-elect Lisa Caffery and President Jann Ricklefs shared key nursing issues with Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA) on Capitol Hill.

## Opioid crisis

The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 included a provision that grants permanent prescriptive authority for buprenorphine to NPs and PAs and 5-year authority to CNSs, CNMs, and CRNAs; that 5-year authority sunsets in 2023 at which point CNSs, CNMs, and CRNAs would no longer have the authority to pre-

scribe buprenorphine. ANA aims to work with Congress to eliminate this 2023 sunset provision to secure permanent prescriptive authority for buprenorphine for all four of the APRN roles.

## Affordable Care Act stabilization

Even as Congress attempted to repeal and replace the ACA in 2017, some members of Congress—notably

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)—float-ed bipartisan proposals to strengthen the ACA's individual health insurance market and to ensure funding for cost-sharing reduction payments to assist low-income Ameri-

cans in making co-insurance payments. ANA will continue to support such measures and urge Congress to stabilize insurance markets, protect individuals with pre-existing conditions, and prevent the re-emergence of junk, or short-term, insurance plans.

## Gun violence prevention

ANA will continue to advocate for funding for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for research into gun violence prevention and for commonsense legislation to protect all Americans, including universal background checks. ANA has already voiced its full support for H.R. 8, a bipartisan bill that would require a back-

ground check for every firearm sale. H.R. 8 was introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and was originally co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of House members; it quickly gained over 175 other co-sponsors.



Arkansas Nurses Association President Michelle Harp (far right) speaks with Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) during ANA's Annual Hill Day in Washington, D.C.

## Giving nurses a voice

ANA strives to ensure that nurses, America's most honest and ethical profession for the past 17 years, have a seat at the table when it comes to these critical issues. Through legislative efforts in 2019, ANA will continue to put the patient and consumer first and will elevate the role of nursing in America's healthcare system.



Participating in ANA's Annual Hill Day is a powerful way to have nurses' expertise and perspectives heard.

— Gregory Craig is a health policy advisor and Samuel Hewitt is a senior associate director in the Policy & Government Affairs Department at ANA.

## ANA resources

**RNAction**—Get involved, take action, and learn more about critical nursing issues.  
[ana.aristotle.com/SitePages/HomePage.aspx](http://ana.aristotle.com/SitePages/HomePage.aspx)

**Capitol Beat Blog**—Stay up to date on the latest healthcare policy and advocacy.  
[anacapitolbeat.org](http://anacapitolbeat.org)





## Concerns about expedited partner therapy

To: **Ethics Advisory Board**

From: **Concerned APRN**

Subject: **Treatment for partners of patients**

I am an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and have independent practice authority in my state. I work in a clinic and have been asked to prescribe antibiotic medication to treat sexually transmitted infections for my patients, and also for partners. The problem is that I have never seen and will likely never see the partner(s) but I am expected to treat them regardless. How can this be ethically sound practice?



From: **ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights**

Thank you for contacting the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights. You raise an important question about a treatment method called expedited partner therapy (EPT). EPT usurps the requirement for a medication prescriber to perform a patient assessment. In EPT, the APRN may prescribe an antibiotic medication to treat a sexually transmitted infection (STI) to one or more individuals who are sexual partners of the APRN's patient. If the partner is unknown to the APRN, an examination and evaluation cannot be performed. In several states, EPT is a legal and preferred practice. The public policy goal behind EPT is to address the public health issues surrounding treatment for STIs, including the stigma attached to diagnosis, the reluctance to notify partners, and the aversion to seek treatment.

The APRN has a duty to recommend to the patient that the unidentified partner seek treatment from a healthcare professional. The APRN also must document the medication, dosage, and instructions on

treatment in the patient's health record in the event of an adverse reaction. However, without a name or identifier of the partner, an APRN must write "EPT" when documenting any patient medication administration education provided to the patient for the purpose of sharing with his or her partner.

There are several considerations for APRNs when using EPT. The lack of individualized counseling regarding medication administration coupled with the secondhand information regarding proper medication administration can lead to serious medication errors. Individual patient education is critical in the medication use process to ensure that patients are educated about the prescribed medication, its purpose, proper consumption, correct amount, and any potential adverse reactions or contraindications. The medication use process includes different phases, but the initial patient assessment, choice of medication, and prescribing order are the responsibility of the prescribing APRN.

The *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* ([nursingworld.org/coe-view-only](http://nursingworld.org/coe-view-only)) states nurses' obligation to preserve and protect a patient's legal rights by assessing his or her understanding of the information presented and by explaining the consequences of all potential decisions. EPT essentially delegates patient education and assessment of understanding to a non-healthcare individual. Thus, the risk of inaccurate information, incorrect administration instructions, and lack of awareness of potential side effects is substantial. Moreover, the opportunity to encourage safe sexual practices and teaching STI prevention is missed.

Although EPT is widely supported and endorsed by several medical associations and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is an ethically challenging practice. APRNs should be diligent in educating themselves on the risks and potential liability associated with this practice.

— Response by Liz Stokes, JD, MA, RN, director of the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights.

Do you have a question for the Ethics Inbox?  
Submit at [ethics@ana.org](mailto:ethics@ana.org).

### Selected references

Anderson P, Townsend T. Medication errors: Don't let them happen to you. *Am Nurs Today*. 2010;5(3):L23-27.

White CS. Advanced practice prescribing: Issues and strategies in preventing medication error. *J Nurs Law*. 2011;14(3-4):120-27.

Wu A. Q&A: Medication errors in the United States. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. 2006. [jhsph.edu/news/stories/2006/wu-medication-errors.html](http://jhsph.edu/news/stories/2006/wu-medication-errors.html).



## Finding the power of MY voice

***“My leadership confidence has grown.”***

— Heidi Orstad, BSN, PHN, CCM,  
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses

***“I gained the tools to not only empower myself but to empower other nurses.”***

— Aimee Manion, DNP, RN-BC, CMSRN, NEA-BC  
Georgia Nurses Association

***“I loved being challenged to look at all sides of an issue and gaining tools to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle.”***

— MaryLee Pakieser, MSN, RN, FNP-BC,  
ANA-Michigan

These experiences and outcomes are just what Irene Trowell-Harris, EdD, RN, Major General, USAF Ret., had in mind when she endowed a fund at the American Nurses Foundation to help nurses build their leadership capacities. In 4 years, the Trowell-Harris Leadership Fund has generated scholarships for 22 nurses from 19 states to attend the American Nurses Advocacy Institute (ANAI) in Washington, D.C.

Overwhelmingly, nurses who attended the ANAI say that the experience changed their lives and their ability to advocate for the profession and patients. For some, the experience led to pursuing additional degrees; for others, it encouraged them to join the boards of community organizations and their constituent and state nurses associations (C/SNAs). “Advocacy and improving processes are now ingrained into my every day,” Manion said.

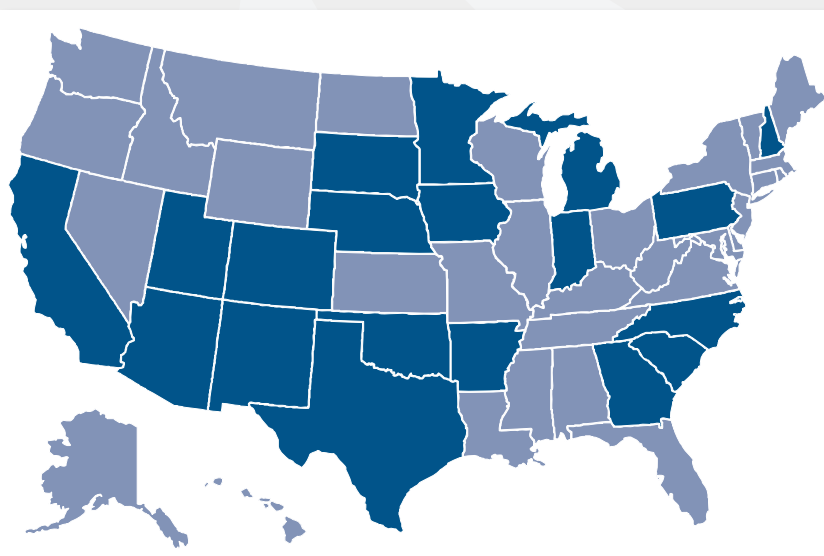
Trowell-Harris wanted to create a legacy of learning and action. Through her act of generosity, nurses are learning how to create policy, get others involved and represent the needs of nurses and patients to legislators in their state and nationally. A distinct highlight of the experience was the solidarity and synergy attendees found with one another. “No longer was I a lone voice for change. I met others at the institute who had similar issues and desires to make things better for people in their state,” said Pakieser, who has since been elected to the ANA Board of Directors. Orstad wrote about her experience for her state nursing publication noting that the diversity of nurses—from all types of employment settings and with different skills and experience—further inspired her work back in Minnesota.

And the confidence gained through the institute experience, which includes a session in D.C. and

yearlong mentoring, led to publishing, promotions, and even new jobs. “Not only is the institute an extraordinary experience that scholarships made possible,” commented Kate Judge, American Nurses Foundation executive director, “but a scholarship provides the unique message that ‘you are special and deserving’ and that can make a lasting difference in someone’s life. I’ve seen it time and again.”

To learn more about the American Nurses Advocacy Institute, contact your C/SNA.

To learn how you can support the Foundation and ANA programs or create your own endowment, go to [givetonursing.org](http://givetonursing.org).



The leadership fund generated scholarships for 22 nurses from 19 states: AR, AZ, CA, CO, GA, IA, IN, MI, MN, NC, NE, NH, NM, OK, PA, SC, SD, TX, UT

### About American Nurses Advocacy Institute (ANAI)

Since its launch in 2009, ANAI has equipped RNs to influence policy at local, state, and national levels. At a session in D.C., participants learn about strategies for creating and sustaining policy change and explore networking and coalition building for effective advocacy. After a yearlong mentored program, and with the continued backing of ANA and their ANAI colleagues, fellows can use their political competence to provide support to their constituent and state nurses associations (C/SNAs). Actions include helping to establish their legislative and regulatory priorities, recommending strategies to advance policy issues, and educating members about political realities—as well as advancing ANA’s political agenda.

## ANA Enterprise and AACN partner to launch student ambassador program

The ANA Enterprise and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) announced a partnership in January to launch a student ambassador program as part of the Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation™ (HNN) Grand Challenge. AACN, as an HNN Catalyst Partner, will work with the ANA Enterprise to drive nursing student participation in HNN and expand efforts to improve the health of nurses.

HNN, an ANA Enterprise initiative, is a nationwide movement designed to transform the health of the nation by improving the health of America's 4 million registered nurses in five key areas: physical activity, rest, nutrition, quality of life, and safety.

"Partnering with AACN is a natural fit because nursing students represent the future of our profession," said ANA Enterprise CEO Loressa Cole, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE. "If we can influence nursing students' health habits and behaviors before they enter the profession, we will be better positioned to truly transform the health of America's nurses."

AACN's second strategic goal states that it is a "leading partner in advancing improvements in health, healthcare, and higher education." This partnership with the ANA Enterprise reinforces this goal and leads to the overall improvement of the health of our nation.

"Together with the ANA Enterprise and other supporting organizations, AACN is committed to generating new awareness and action within the academic nursing community that elevates the health and wellness of our nation's registered nurse population,"



# HEALTHY NURSE HEALTHY NATION

leading the way to better health

said AACN President and CEO Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Nurses are less healthy than the average American. Research shows that nurses

experience 2.8 times more stress, have a 30% less nutritious diet, 5% higher body mass index, and get 10% less sleep. Healthcare delivery requires 24/7 support, and whether it's due to demanding shifts or stress

associated with providing quality patient care, nurses routinely put their own health and well-being last. As the largest group of healthcare workers, nurses are critical to America's healthcare system. Nurses protect, promote, and optimize the health of their patients by preventing illness and injury, facilitating healing, and alleviating suffering. Their well-being is fundamental to the health of our nation.

In addition to nursing students, AACN also encourages nursing deans and faculty to join the commitment to health and wellness. AACN will highlight the five key health domains of HNN in newsletters, provide webinars focused on this topic, and engage members of the Graduate Nursing Student Academy Liaisons group. Learn more at [hnn.org](http://hnn.org).

The ANA Enterprise is the organizing platform

of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and the American Nurses Foundation. It leverages the combined strength of each to drive excellence in practice and ensure nurses' voice and vision are recognized by policy leaders, industry influencers, and employers.





## Fitzpatrick selected as recipient of 2019 International Achievement Award

**T**he Florence Nightingale International Foundation Board of Directors has selected Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, as the recipient of the 2019 International Achievement Award, which was announced January 18 in Geneva, Switzerland. Fitzpatrick serves as vice chair of the American Nurses Foundation.



Joyce Fitzpatrick

The International Achievement Award is given biennially by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation to a practicing nurse who has at least 10 years of nursing experience in one of the following domains of nursing: direct care, education, management, or research, and who has achieved significant impact internationally.

Of the many nominations submitted by national nursing associations from all over the world, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge the international contribution of Fitzpatrick in advancing nursing education through research, innovative conceptual models, and theory development.

"I am greatly honored by the decision of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation's Board of Directors," Fitzpatrick said. "I am indebted to my nurse colleagues throughout the world who have taught me about the human experience and the important work that nurses do to make the world better for those in our care."

Fitzpatrick is the inaugural director of the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy and the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She has provided consultation to several schools of nursing and healthcare organizations globally.

Fitzpatrick is widely published in nursing and healthcare literature with over 300 publications, including 80 books. She has recently published two books: *Nursing Leadership: from the Outside In*, and *Advancing Professional Nursing Practice: Relationship-Based Care and the American Nurses Association Standards of Professional Nursing Practice*.

The conferment of this International Achievement Award will take place at the Florence Nightingale International Foundation luncheon, which will be held on June 30 during the ICN Congress 2019 in Singapore. Tickets for this event, and registration to the ICN Congress, can be purchased at [regonline.react-profile.org/profile/ICN2019/ICN/en/login](http://regonline.react-profile.org/profile/ICN2019/ICN/en/login).

The American Nurses Association is a member of ICN, a federation of more than 130 national nurses' associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide.

## Celebrate certified nurses on March 19

**C**ertified Nurses Day™ is an annual day of recognition that honors nurses worldwide who contribute to better patient outcomes through board certification in their specialty. Every March 19, employers, certification boards, education facilities and healthcare providers celebrate and publicly acknowledge nurses who care enough to earn and maintain the highest credentials in their specialty, demonstrating their commitment to nursing professionalism and excellence.

Certified Nurses Day is celebrated on the birthday of Margretta "Gretta" Madden Styles, EdD, RN, FAAN, a renowned pioneer and expert in nurse credentialing. An accomplished advocate for nursing standards and certification, Styles advanced nursing practice and regulation worldwide for more than two decades.

Certified Nurses Day is the perfect opportunity to invite all nurses to advance their career by choosing certification. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) provides free downloadable tools and celebration ideas at [certifiednursesday.org](http://certifiednursesday.org).



## ANCC Certified Nurse Awards

**W**inners of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Certified Nurse Awards are announced in conjunction with Certified Nurses Day. The awards recognize individual ANCC certified nurses for significant contributions to their field of practice. The Certified Nurse Awards program showcases certified nurses in various specialties who have made impactful and valuable contributions to the nursing profession and the field of healthcare. Each year, ANCC presents the Certified Nurse Awards to outstanding nurses who exemplify the true value of continuing professional development through certification. Awards are given in 51 categories. Watch for the nominating period to open again later this month at [nursing-world.org/ancc/awards/certified-nurse-awards](http://nursing-world.org/ancc/awards/certified-nurse-awards).

## What's in *OJIN*?

### Sexual harassment in healthcare

Check out what's new in *OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, which features six new articles on the January 31 topic of *Sexual Harassment in Healthcare*. The articles cover various aspects of this current concern in settings common to healthcare providers.

In "Sexual harassment in nursing: Ethical considerations and recommendations," authors Seun Ross, DNP, MS, CRNP-F, NP-C, NEA-BC, and colleagues provide key definitions and discuss ethical obligations to address sexual harassment in nursing. The authors offer recommendations for healthcare organizations and nurses, and review practice implications.

Authors Cristina Escobar, BA, and MarySue V. Heilemann, PhD, RN, FAAN, consider media images of nurses in their article, "Reimagining nursing on screen: How Marvel's Claire Temple and BBC's *Call the Midwife* get it right."

Claire Burke Draucker, PhD, RN, FAAN, in "Responses of nurses and other healthcare workers to sexual harassment in the workplace," describes findings from an integrative review of 15 studies from around the world that revealed the nature of sexual harassment and summarized healthcare workers' responses.



In the article, "Sexual harassment in healthcare: A psychological perspective," Dana Kabat-Farr, PhD, and Ellen T. Crumley, PhD, identify unique contextual factors in nursing that may influence harassment experiences, such as sexual harassment to protect status, the healthcare hierarchy, and reporting challenges.

In her article, "Healthy environments for women in academic nursing: Addressing sexual harassment and gender discrimination," Jessica Castner, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FAEN, suggests potential solutions and identifies gaps and future directions to eliminate sexual harassment and gender discrimination in academic settings.

Natasha Colmore, MBA, BSN, RN, CCHP, LCDR, USPHS, and colleagues provide an overview of U.S. military, and specifically department of defense goals, policies, procedures, and protocols related to sexual harassment in "Sexual harassment in the military: Implications for civilian nursing policy."

Read these stories and more at [ojin.nursingworld.org](http://ojin.nursingworld.org).

## Experience nursing excellence and innovation at one event

Nursing excellence and quality and innovation will come together under one roof April 24-26 in Orlando, Florida, with the joining of the ANCC Pathway to Excellence Conference® and ANA Quality and Innovation Conference. For the first time ever, attendees can register for one of these transformational events and get access to the other for no additional cost.

### Reasons to attend:

**Concurrent sessions that encompass both innovation and excellence.** Attendees will be able to map out a conference experience that's customized to their needs, cutting across Pathway to Excellence content and ANA Quality and Innovation content.

**An exhibit hall filled with the latest innovations and technologies.** Industry leaders will highlight the latest innovations for attendees to take back to their practices.

**One of the nation's leading events for nursing professional development is the premier preconference event.** The Continuing Nursing Education



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Conference

Symposium will change the way attendees view professional development.

**New conference events and experiences.** From an innovation lab for developing new ideas to the Nurse Pitch™ event where nurses will compete to receive funding for their visions, attendees will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**More fun than ever before.** The celebration, excitement, and good times will be bigger and better than ever!

Are you the type who enjoys a good deal? Are you someone who wants to continuously learn, evolve, and grow? Do you love a great party? Visit [pteqicon.org](http://pteqicon.org) and register today for the can't-miss nursing event of the year.