

President's Message

Connie J. Perkins, PhD, RN, CNE



Political anxiety is a real thing and if you don't have it yet, just wait; from what I can see it's contagious! According to the latest Stress in America™ poll, the top three reported stressors for adults were the future of our nation (77%), the economy (73%) and the 2024 U.S. presidential election (69%) (American Psychological Association, 2024). Most political moves at the federal level are out of our control and have unknown implications. This just feeds the anxiety monster lurking inside all of us. To manage my own political anxiety, I've cut back on how much news I watch and made a conscious effort to limit my social media time. Being in this position reminds me daily that we all have a team at ANA that focuses on federal policy each and every day. At the ANA Leadership Summit in December, Jeanine and I heard directly from ANA's Policy & Government Affairs Team. They shared that they would be monitoring any proposals by the federal government as they unfolded and would update us frequently on what these proposals may mean for nursing. Several in attendance shared specific concerns and urged the team to be fluid in communication and asked that ANA

as an organization remain transparent in their actions. I am happy to say that they have kept their word. Since January 20th, regular updates have come to my inbox from this group and I hope some of you have seen the emails from ANA's Chief Executive Officer, Angela Beddoe. On January 23rd, just three days after President Trump's inauguration, she shared:

"ANA has grave concerns about the impact of these EOs but is also assessing the most effective ways to express our concerns and challenge these executive actions" (Beddoe, 2025, para. 1) [and] "ANA will reach out to Congress, including members of the Nursing Caucus and career staff within federal agencies to express our concern and support for efforts to mitigate the impact of the orders immediately..." (Beddoe, 2025, para. 4).

This message was specifically focusing on the executive orders related to withdrawing from the World Health Organization and banning diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. My hope is that a strong partnership between ANA and the Congressional Nursing Caucus will help to communicate our concerns at the federal level clearly and frequently. The Congress-

sional Nursing Caucus was relaunched in January and is made up of over 50 members of Congress from both political parties (Congressman Dave Joyce, 2025). I was happy to also see that Congresswomen Lauren Underwood and Jen Kiggans are serving as co-vice chairs since they are fellow Registered Nurses.

Many other organizations have put statements out and filed lawsuits regarding DEI data, which should now be restored on all government websites thanks to a quick initiative by Doctors for America. Several other lawsuits are in place as well. On February 11th, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2025) signed on as a plaintiff in support of a lawsuit challenging the new National Institute of Health (NIH) guidance regarding reimbursement. Their concern boils down to constraint of funds for nursing research and the potential of stunting the growth of future nurse researchers (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2025). While what is happening at the federal level is chaotic, our government was not designed to go fast. In fact, it was designed to go slow to allow for many elected officials to evaluate the implications of the change and for professional organizations to respond. Before a real change is made, several people will review it and several steps will have to be made before it takes effect. I have peace knowing that I am part of a professional organization who is monitoring it all and actively responding in a calculated, experienced way. The best thing each of us can do is to stay plugged into our organization, respond when prompted by them, and continue to advocate locally for what we are seeing in our practice. What has been keeping me up at night lately is workplace violence. In response, I took some of my students to our local Assemblyman to advocate. One student shared a personal story of workplace violence she experi-



From left to right: Emily Keating, Alison Roae, Assemblyman Sempolinski, Gabriella Alvarez, Christelle Valentin, Dr. Connie Perkins

enced while working in an Emergency Room. He leaned in and truly listened. Workplace violence has to be stopped and not only can we share our stories with our local officials, we can also take comfort knowing that workplace health and safety are top priorities for ANA-NY and ANA. While I want you all to remain advocates in whatever capacity suits you, I also want you to share my comfort knowing that at the state and federal level, nursing's voice is present. ■

References

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Jeanine Santelli, PhD, RN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, Faith Community Nurse



How will you spend your summer? Here at the office, once we wind down from Nurses Month, we will be juggling staff vacations in preparation for going full steam ahead toward our Annual Conference. Come visit us at our ANA-NY exhibiting

table at the NYONL and NYSANA conferences in September. Be sure your current email address is associated with your My ANA account to keep you up to date on all the news from both ANA and ANA-NY. Upcoming Thursday weekly bulletins

from ANA-NY will include information on Committee Member sign-up, annual election of ANA-NY officers, RN to BSN Nurse Fellowship, and, of course, our Annual Meeting. ■

Legislative Update

Amy Kellogg and Caiti Anderson

New York's 2025-2026 budget was due on April 1. Certain policy issues delayed the final budget, as the Governor proposed a series of major policy changes that took some time for the Governor and Legislature to negotiate. As of this writing, we still do not have a finalized budget, but we expect the budget to be finalized in early May. The Governor announced a general budget agreement between herself, the Senate and the Assembly on Monday, April 28. The big policy issues that we have a broad agreement on include a bell-to-bell ban of cell phones in schools, discovery re-

forms, involuntary confinement rules, and enhanced criminal penalties for those committing a crime while wearing a mask.

The final budget will total \$254 billion, which is \$2 billion more than was proposed in Governor Hochul's budget proposal. In addition to the above policy items, the final budget will include middle class tax credits, an increase in the child tax credit, free school breakfast and lunch for all New York school children, inflation refund checks that will be sent to 8.2 million New Yorkers, and \$400 million will be included for childcare vouchers.



While we will have a final budget in place in early May, it is likely that the Legislature will need to return in the fall to amend the enacted State budget to respond to any budgetary actions taken by the federal government. The federal government passed a continuing resolution in March that will keep the federal government functioning until September. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are now working on putting together a proposed federal budget. Nothing is finalized at this point but based on