

# From the Desk of the Executive Director



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

## CALLING ALL LPN'S

Are you feeling left out of the loop? Are you looking for a professional home? ANA-NY would like to provide you with a place to connect with us and each other. We know that much of the legislation that we consider affects ALL NURSES in New York State. Practice issues impact ALL NURSES in New York State. We would like to include you in our mailings, grassroots advocacy, educational offerings, and our annual conference. We will also set up a networking group on the ANA-NY app for you to connect with other LPNs in NY. To indicate your interest in getting connected, use this [link](#) to submit your information, and we will get you settled into your professional home, ANA-NY.

ANA-NY members, please extend this invitation to your LPN colleagues. ■

Interested in getting connected, use this [link](#) or QR code to submit your information.



## Legislative Update

Amy Kellogg and Caiti Anderson



New York's 2026-2027 budget was due on April 1. Certain policy issues delayed the final budget, as the Governor proposed a series of major policy changes that have taken some time for the Governor and Legislature to negotiate. As of this writing, we still do not have a finalized budget, but we hope the budget will be finalized by mid-May. The big policy issues that have held up budget negotiations are changes to automobile insurance liability laws, amendments to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, immigration protections, and the creation of protest "buffer zones" outside of houses of worship. Until there is agreement between the Legislature and the Governor on the policy issues, we will not know the final spending amount for the budget.

One of the budgetary issues that ANA-NY strongly supports are the proposals relating to tobacco enforcement and tax collection. The Governor proposed expanding the tobacco products excise tax to include alternative nicotine

products, which would include ZYNs and other noncombustible products that contain nicotine but not tobacco. The Senate and the Assembly both included this tax proposal in their one-house budget bills, but the tobacco industry and tobacco retailers oppose the tax. The Governor also proposed a distributor tax of \$.55 cents per unit on vapor products, in addition to the 20% tax imposed on the retail sales of vapor products. This proposal would also authorize the Tax Department to create a registry of vapor products that can be sold in New York State. The Assembly included this proposal in its one-house budget bill, but the Senate omitted it. ANA-NY strongly supports both of these measures as they would close loopholes in New York law and help prevent a new generation from becoming addicted to nicotine.

Despite the delay in the budget, we are continuing to pursue standalone legislation of concern for the nursing profession, and ANA-NY's lobby day occurred on Tuesday, April 28, where we discussed

ANA-NY's legislative priorities with the Legislature. ANA-NY's top legislative priority is S2278-A/A5208-A, sponsored by Senator Lea Webb and Assemblymember Karines Reyes. This bill would require hospitals to add a seat to their governing board for a registered professional nurse who is clinically active. Although many hospital boards already have a representative of the nursing profession on their boards, we believe that every board would benefit from the experience and expertise of a nurse. The Senate passed this bill in March, so we are focusing our efforts on moving the bill from the Assembly Health Committee.

Another bill we are supporting is S9893/A765 (Senator Krueger, Assemblymember McDonald). This bill would require health care providers who administer vaccines to a person 19 years or older to report such information to the Department of Health unless the person opts out of this reporting. The current adult immunization registry is opt-in. The intent here is to create a more complete