

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

adult vaccination registry, which would benefit patients by giving them access to this information and public health officials tracking vaccine-preventable diseases. ANA-NY supports this legislation through the Let's Get Immunized Coalition. The Assembly passed this bill in April, and the Senate bill is in the Health Committee.

We are also supporting two other related immunization bills. S9599/A10710 (Senator Bailey, Assemblymember Dilan) would expand what vaccine recommendations can trigger insurance coverage to continue to allow existing reliance on recommendations from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, while also taking into consideration recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American College of Physicians (ACP), and other na-

tionally or internationally recognized scientific organizations. This bill passed the Assembly and is on third reading in the Senate. Similarly, S9598/A10711 (Senator Stavisky, Assemblymember Paulin) would give the Department of Health authority to determine immunization requirements and standards related to school vaccine requirements, amends the definition of immunization by removing references to federal standards, and amends federal references for standing orders, newborn immunizations and childhood immunizations. This bill passed both houses in April.

Finally, we talked about our support for S845/A860 (Rosenthal, Salazar), which would prohibit drug, cannabis, or alcohol testing of a pregnant or postpartum individual and newborn without consent. Passing this legislation will codify clinical best practices to ensure pregnant and postpartum people are given an opportunity to consent to drug, cannabis, or alco-

hol testing as recommended by the New York State Commissioner of Health and help to ensure that health equity disparities are not perpetuated in the healthcare system. This bill is currently in the Health Committee in both houses.

For more information regarding ANA-NY's legislative priorities, please see the legislative priorities page on the ANA-NY website.

Finally, we would like to remind you that ANA-NY has a Political Action Committee (PAC). The ANA-NY PAC will be supporting candidates that support the profession and issues of importance to our members. We urge you to visit the ANA-NY PAC website and donate.

If you have any questions about the legislative process or the priorities of ANA-NY, please contact a member of the Legislative Committee. As always, we welcome your questions, thoughts, ideas or comments on legislation or the bill track. ■

Creating a Sense of Belonging and Mentorship: ANA-NY's First Mentorship Program

By Emily Tricarico, BSN, RN and The Mentorship Subgroup Members

Mentorship plays a critical role in shaping the nursing profession, offering a bridge between experience and growth across all stages of a nurse's career. Over the past year, the American Nurses Association of New York (ANA-NY), with leadership from members of the Young Professionals Special Interest Group (SIG), have been developing a structured mentorship program designed to strengthen that bridge across its statewide community.

The initiative emerged from a clear and recurring need: nurses—both those entering the profession and those with years of experience—often seek guidance, connection, and professional support beyond what is available in their immediate work

environments. For newer nurses, this can mean navigating transition-to-practice challenges such as burnout, confidence gaps, and "transition shock." For more experienced nurses, it may involve identifying leadership pathways, staying connected to evolving practices, or re-engaging with professional organizations. For both, it could be finding a sense of belonging or finding a place and purpose amongst the community. As the mentorship subgroup and members of the Young Professionals SIG, we designed this program to address these needs, and to help individuals find their support system.

We have focused on building a structured framework that supports both men-

tors and mentees. The program emphasizes mutual growth: mentors are expected to provide guidance, share insights, and support goal-setting, while mentees are encouraged to take an active role in defining objectives, preparing for discussions, and tracking their progress. Both participants are expected to uphold professionalism, confidentiality, and the ANA Code of Ethics, reinforcing a foundation of trust and accountability. Many of us have been either mentors or mentees within our profession, whether it be through work, through school, or simply in the community. Our goal and vision for this program was to bring a sense of belonging and sup-

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