



Presentation Overview

- Occupational injury story
- Advocacy journey
- Strategies contributing to success

Roots of professional activism

- Recognition that advocacy that is limited (like that on behalf of the individual) fails to address recurrent & underlying societal issues
- Broader conceptualization of advocacy as both professional responsibility & collegial endeavor to advance the health of all

ANA & C/SNA nurse advocacy

- Works for the improvement of health standards & the availability of health care services for all people
- Collective strength enhances nursing's voice within the policy arena
- Professional organizations play an important role as advocates for important issues related to practice and health

Post-injury policy journey

- Making the personal public
- Health policy arena advocacy: local, state & federal levels
- ANA/CMA engagement on issue key

Health policy arena advocacy: Local, state & federal

- Local – Sharps Prevention Committee
- Filing of state legislation
- MA Joint Healthcare Committee testimony
- ANA Constituent Assembly – visits to 23 states
- ANA campaign launched: *Safe Needles Save Lives*
- Outreach to stakeholders and key Congressional leaders

ANA political activity

- Vocal commitment to health & safety reform
- Media campaign/outreach
- Strategic planning – update OSHA BBP Standard
- Coalition-building – stakeholders, legislators, clinicians, healthcare leaders
- Political advocacy at state & federal level

ANA Congressional activity

- Finding bill sponsors
- Visits to the *Hill*
- Key networking – OSHA leadership, identification of key bill champions
- Two days of meetings with congressional leadership and staff
- Congressional testimony: HELP Committee

Federal Needlestick Safety & Prevention Act

- Passed by unanimous consent in both House & Senate in one legislative session
- Amended OSHA BBP standard
- Signed in November 2000
- Enacted in April 2001



Components of bill filed in Congress

- Mandated use of safety-engineered devices where appropriate.
- Required employers to involve front-line users in evaluation and selection of devices.
- Annual update to exposure control plans.

Empowerment in the political process

- Knowledge, expertise, experience
- Building relationships is key
- Credibility, image, integrity, leadership ability
- Ability to listen and communicate clearly
- Willingness to expend energy to influence change
- Financial support, size of constituency
- Willingness to collaborate, listen, negotiate, work with other stakeholders & power brokers

Advocacy for sharps injury prevention: What worked...

- Advocacy at state and federal levels
- Coalition-building and stakeholder engagement
- Education of key legislators on both sides of issue
- Addressing resistance related to implementation costs, constituent opposition
- Utilizing media – print, social, radio, TV
- Putting a face to the issue

Dimensions of effective advocacy

- The personal becoming public
- Don't ignore the facts
- Quality of care and life issues matter
- Economic savings/prudence/stimulation
- Making the '*business case*' for change
- Public and private partnerships
- Ongoing vigilance concerning issues

