

WNA APRN Lobby Day

Preparing for Your **Senator** Visit

Instructions: *The WNA has made your appointment with your State Senator. We have provided you and your Senator with the Zoom meeting link to join. When you and your legislator are connected you can start the meeting. **Your meeting will be limited to 25 minutes** as the Zoom ports are being used for other meetings. The guidelines to assist you with your virtual meeting are below. Have your [APRN Legislation Infographic](#) available to discuss under #9.*

Purpose:

To explain the APRN Modernization Act. What it does, why it is important to your community and you.

Guidelines for Starting Your Meeting

1. Which legislator/staffer are you meeting with: _____
2. Introduce yourself and where you live _____
3. Thank him or her for meeting with you
4. What you do
 - a. Practice as an APRN describe your credentials (where) _____
 - b. APRN Master's/Doctoral Degree Nursing Student (where) _____ and if you are practicing as a RN now
5. **"I am meeting with you to share our support of a separate licensure for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. There is a bill that will be introduced this session that will be very similar to the APRN legislation from last session."**
6. *Speak to this only if your Senator was a co-sponsor of the APRN Bill last session (check the list below). If so, refer to #6 statement below this list.*
Senators: LEMAHIEU (Bill sponsor), RINGHAND, TESTIN, CARPENTER, KOOYENGA, MARKLEIN, WANGGAARD and WIRCH.
6. **"I see you signed-on to the APRN Bill last session. Thank you so much for your support and I hope you will consider doing the same this session."**
7. *Speak to this only if your Senator is on the **Senate Health Committee** as listed below. If so, refer to #7 statement below this list.*

Senator Testin (Chair)	Senator Bradley
Senator Kooyenga (Vice-Chair)	Senator Erpenbach
Senator Carpenter	

7. **"I see that you are on the Senate Health Committee. I believe that this is where the APRN Bill from last year was assigned." Do you think that this is where the bill will be assigned?**
8. **"I would like to share what this bill will accomplish."**

What the APRN Modernization Act Accomplishes

1. Separate licensure for RNs who meet the identified criteria to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse.
2. Brings all of the RNs that meet the identified criteria under the same licensure, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

3. Having a separate license identifies to the public and employers that these RNs are to be held at higher standard of nursing care and responsibility because of the requirements needed to practice.

9. “I would like to share the requirements for licensure as an APRN as outlined in the APRN Modernization Act.”

Your Senator has a copy of the [APRN Legislation infographic](#). You can refer to this as you describe the requirements which is below:

What are the requirements for licensure?

1. Hold a RN license in Wisconsin.
2. Graduated from a Board of Nursing accredited nursing educational program.
3. Has and maintains Board of Nursing recognized national board certification relevant to their area of practice.
4. Graduated with a Master’s Degree or higher as a: Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Nurse Practitioner (NP)
5. Evidence of medical malpractice insurance equal to a physician \$1M/\$3M.
6. Complete 16 hours of pharmacology and therapeutics continuing education every biennium, 2 hours must be related to opioid prescribing.

10. “I would like to share some information about the importance of APRNs to the health care delivery system.”

Pick the Talking Points below that you want to discuss for #1 - #4: (There will not be enough time to review all)

1. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)
 - A. Are state licensed Registered Nurses and independent health care nursing professionals
 - B. Recognized and regulated by the State Board of Nursing in 50 states, DC and four US territories
 - C. Educated to assess, diagnose, treat, and prescribe for acute and chronic health problems
2. Reduced Health Care Costs in APRN Provided Care *The data shows:*
 - A. 11-29% reduction in state health care costs
 - B. 50% reduction in unnecessary emergency room visits
 - C. 48% reduction in post-discharge hospital readmissions
 - D. 30% reduction in hospitalizations for preventable problems
 - E. Provide quality care at a reduced cost
3. Increased Access to Health Care Services *The data also shows*
 - A. 75% of APRN workforce chooses primary care
 - B. More likely to move to rural areas resulting in a 10% increase in APRN primary care providers
 - C. Improve access to high, quality care in rural/underserved areas
 - D. Improves community health and economic development

- E. Nationally, APRNs conduct over 1.6 billion annual patient visits and there are more visits which are hidden in physician billing charges.
 - F. In Wisconsin, by 2035, there will be a predicted short-fall of 745 physician primary care providers
 - G. The APRN workforce, in particular the NP workforce, has been increasing
4. Improved Health Care Outcomes [The data shows](#)
- A. 50 years of research demonstrate the high quality of health care provided by APRNs
 - B. No significant difference in the quality of care provided by APRNs compared to physicians
 - C. APRNs often have higher patient satisfaction ratings.
 - D. APRNs have better outcome data
 - E. APRNs have individual malpractice coverage and low rates of malpractice claims.
 - F. Wisconsin is in the lowest 10 States that is providing Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT) , Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Many of Wisconsin NPs have received certification as a MAT provider, physicians have a low rate of certification, NPs cannot practice because in Wisconsin, NPs need to collaborate with a “MAT” certified physician. Federal law allows NPs to practice without having to collaborate with a physician. Wisconsin’s opioid addiction issue remains problematic especially during COVID.

If the Senator wants to see the data, you will be able to provide this after the meeting.

10. Share what passage of the APRN Modernization Act means to you in your practice or when you graduate. (Select the ones you would like to share and provide any examples)

- A. My APRN title and my role and title of NP, CNS, CRNA, CNM will be protected which provides clarity to my patients and public.
- B. Fill the shortages that exist in primary care so that my patients will timely access to a qualified health care provider.
- C. I bring my years of experience as a RN along with the advanced clinical knowledge and skills that I received in my advanced nursing degree.
- D. It provides another health care provider for mine and your community that includes promotion of healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.

Closing

“I want to thank you for your time and our great discussion. I am wondering if you will be able to be a co-sponsor or supporter of our bill”

The Sponsors are Rachael Cabral-Guevara in the Assembly and Senator Patrick Testin in the Senate.

“I look forward to keeping in touch with you on this important issue. I will send you the data that we discussed”

Response to other questions that may come up.

Q. What is the Wisconsin Hospital Association position on your bill?

A. WNA’s lobbyist have been meeting with WHA to discuss the bill.

Q. What is the Wisconsin Medical Society or other physician groups position on your bill?

A. It is my understanding that our lobbyist is meeting with these groups as well.