

PREPARING FOR YOUR LEGISLATOR VISIT

1. Prepare in advance – review the talking points in the Guide to Legislator Visits (*below*)
2. Research the legislators in your district, and check what committees he/she are on. (www.house.michigan.gov or www.senate.michigan.gov .) Thank them for any past support.
3. Prepare to give your credentials, current position and describe your day-to-day responsibilities. Have your personal business cards with you (*if you don't have them or forget, a leave behind form will be in your attendee packet that can be filled out with your contact information*).
4. Bring with you examples of how you are an integral part of your practice environment that list or show you as part of the practice (*prescription pads, letterhead stationery, practice brochures etc.*).
5. Provide any tools you have that demonstrate that your APRN role is a critical part of the team in the setting or population of patients you care for.
6. Bring a letter of support from your physician colleagues and/or patients. There are template letters available for you (*via the MICNP website in the Legislative Outreach section <http://micnp.org/legislative/outreach.html>*) for you to revise for your practice setting. Bring these with you for use in your visits, and also please fax a copy to the MICNP business office at 734.432.9884 for our files and for future use during this legislative campaign.
7. Give some thought to the personal examples you are going to share to illustrate your points.
9. Review the documents on the MICNP website in the Legislative Outreach section <http://micnp.org/legislative/outreach.html>, and print off any that you would like to bring and leave behind at your meeting.

GUIDE TO LEGISLATOR VISITS

-Introduce yourself, where you work and where you live

-Ask if legislator has any knowledge or personal experience with an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (or with your area i.e. NP, CNM or CNS)

-Briefly describe your practice, what is a typical work day, the type of activities you do in assessing and managing your patient population

-While there is not a new bill that has been drafted, discuss what our legislative goals are, including:

- Language defining an APRN and each type: NP, CNM and CNS
- Issuing of a license as an APRN by the Board of Nursing
- Adding APRNs to the list of licensed health care professionals who can prescribe medications independently
- Adding APRNs to the list of licensed providers who can prescribe physical therapy and speech therapy

Quick Review of what to say

- We would like to see a bill that adds the APRN definition into the Michigan Public Health Code
- Institute of Medicine recommends increased role for APRNs in care delivery
- Lift unnecessary restrictions so APRNs can practice to the full extent of their education/certification
- Give your own real life examples:
 - Labs not sent to you
 - Confusion with prescriptions
 - Referral letters not coming to you
 - Patients have chosen you as their provider but system making it more difficult to see you
- APRNs need to be visible within the health care environment, not hidden with a physician's name on medications, diagnostic tests etc.
- Emphasize our goal of being directly accountable for the care we provide

-Refer to the materials that you will leave behind (in the packet you will pick up before leaving and bring with you)

-Ask for their support once a new bill is drafted

-Follow up, send a thank you note:

The Honorable NAME
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable NAME
State Representative
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514