

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislation/Education Directors/Chairs
FROM: Diana Carbone Peck, NSNA Director and Chair,
Legislation/Education Committee
SUBJECT: Summer Memo
DATE: August 10, 2009

Hello, Legislation/Education Directors/Chairs! I hope that this summer has treated you all well and you are prepared for the upcoming semester. I am so excited to be serving as your Legislation/Education Chair this year! I look forward to working with each of you as we reach out to all nursing students across the country and engage them in healthcare legislation and education.

This summer I was able to attend the board orientation in New York for two weeks with the rest of the NSNA Executive Board and staff. It was a great week, packed with meetings, planning, and getting to know one another. Your 2009-2010 Legislation/Education Committee members serving with me this year are Liz Patail, Director and Dana Jennings, Council of State Presidents Planning Committee Chair and Ex-Officio member of the NSNA Board of Directors. Our theme for this year is **“Getting Back to the Basics!”** We hope that by educating students on the basics of local, state, and federal government and NSNA’s role in the process we can raise student awareness, confidence, and participation in healthcare legislation. Communication is crucial to success in this area; so we aim to enhance communication between all Legislation/Education Chairs.

Getting the information you need to make a difference in your chapter is NSNA’s job. I invite you to refer to the *Guidelines for Planning Legislation/Education Programs*, which is currently being updated for 2009-2010 and will be available on the NSNA website in mid-September. We have designed the new *Guidelines* booklet to provide an overview of the legislative process, some key terms, what *you* can do, and some very helpful links to engage your chapter. We are also helping to update the [Legislation/Education web pages](#) with the redesign of the NSNA website this fall. Our goal is to continue to provide important information and links to key Legislation/Education materials.

As always, our plan for this year is focused on the needs of the student body, which is represented by the [Resolutions passed at the 2009 NSNA House of Delegates in Nashville, TN](#) this past April. This year a key concern and area in need of our education and involvement is the new administration’s plan for “healthcare reform.” This is an incredible time for us to help make a difference in the future of this nation’s healthcare! Our lives will be forever impacted by the decisions that take place in the next few years.

Legislative Updates: Title VIII Funding and Support for Nursing

I would like to give you a very broad overview of what NSNA is involved in and the most recent legislative happenings. One of the first steps in our aim to get our healthcare under control is to make sure that the President's \$263.4 million *Title VIII funding proposed in his FY2010 budget* is incorporated in final legislation. NSNA is one the many supporters of [ANSR, Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief](#), which has worked hard to educate and motivate Congress to support adequate funding for nursing education and nursing workforce issues. The Nursing Community, www.thenursingcommunity.org, is another forum for nursing professionals and other organizations to work together on the issues that healthcare faces today. NSNA is a participant of the Nursing Community, and signed on to an "[Act Now](#)" letter that was recently sent to members of Congress to ensure that nurses would be heard and be included as the House and Senate move forward with deliberations on healthcare reform legislation.

I hope you are all aware that the Committee on Appropriations has prepared the 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill. This bill, in detail, can be accessed at http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_lhhse.shtml. The bill includes \$2.2 billion for Community Health Centers, \$530 million in HRSA to expand training programs across the health profession and nursing fields, and \$135 million for a Career Pathways Innovation Fund in the Labor and Education Departments. It was passed by the House and sent on to the Senate for consideration this fall. It is imperative that the terminology used to disperse these monies is correct and directed specifically for nursing education and healthcare reform with the use of nursing care principles. Watch the NSNA website [What's New Pages](#) for updates in September regarding contacting your legislators for their support of adequate funding for nursing education.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) have launched a new Initiative on the Future of Nursing, which aims to identify the potential for increasing access, improving quality, and reducing costs through the involvement of nursing leaders and use of nursing care solutions. Please visit www.thefutureofnursing.org or www.iom.edu/nursing to learn more on this initiative.

How to Stay Informed and Connected

Keep an eye out for updates on [Covered the Uninsured Initiative reports](#) and [other activities](#). Watch for more details on the new *Facebook* group being developed for NSNA Legislation/Education Directors/Chairs to communicate and get information. Be sure to keep in mind that NSNA gives an award for the best state and school Legislation/Education project promoting Political Involvement! The 2010 NSNA Awards and Honors Booklet and application will be available on the NSNA website early this fall.

I know this is a lot of information to take in, especially if you are new to this position, but this is a very big time in our nation's history. It is time to take post and support our nursing leaders, be our nursing leaders, and educate our law makers. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or for help with projects at directors@nsna.org. We invite you to attend the [27th Annual Midyear Career Planning Conference in Phoenix](#),

[AZ from October 29 – November 1, 2009](#). Come join us on Saturday, October 31 from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm for the Legislation/Education Workshop, and immediately following the workshop come engage with colleagues from across the country in the Legislation/Education Committee Roundtable Discussion, 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm. *See you there!*