

Healthcare & Public Policy: What Is Your Role?

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Presenters

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- President's Counsel Representative for CMSA National
- Past Vice Chair of CMSA National Public Policy Committee
- Elected local official
- Campaign manager, strategist and volunteer

- **John Heraty, LCSW, CCM, CPA**

- President Elect-CMSA-Chicago
- Public Policy Committee-CMSA Nat'l
- Clinical Case Manager – CVS Health
- Motorist's Rights Advocate
- Mentor – At-Risk Youth

- **Colleen Morley DNP RN CCM CMAC CMCN ACM-RN**

- President, CMSA Chicago
- Director, CMSA National Board
 - Education Chair, CMSA National
- Secretary, ANA-IL
 - Legislative Chair & PAC Trustee, ANA-IL



Objectives

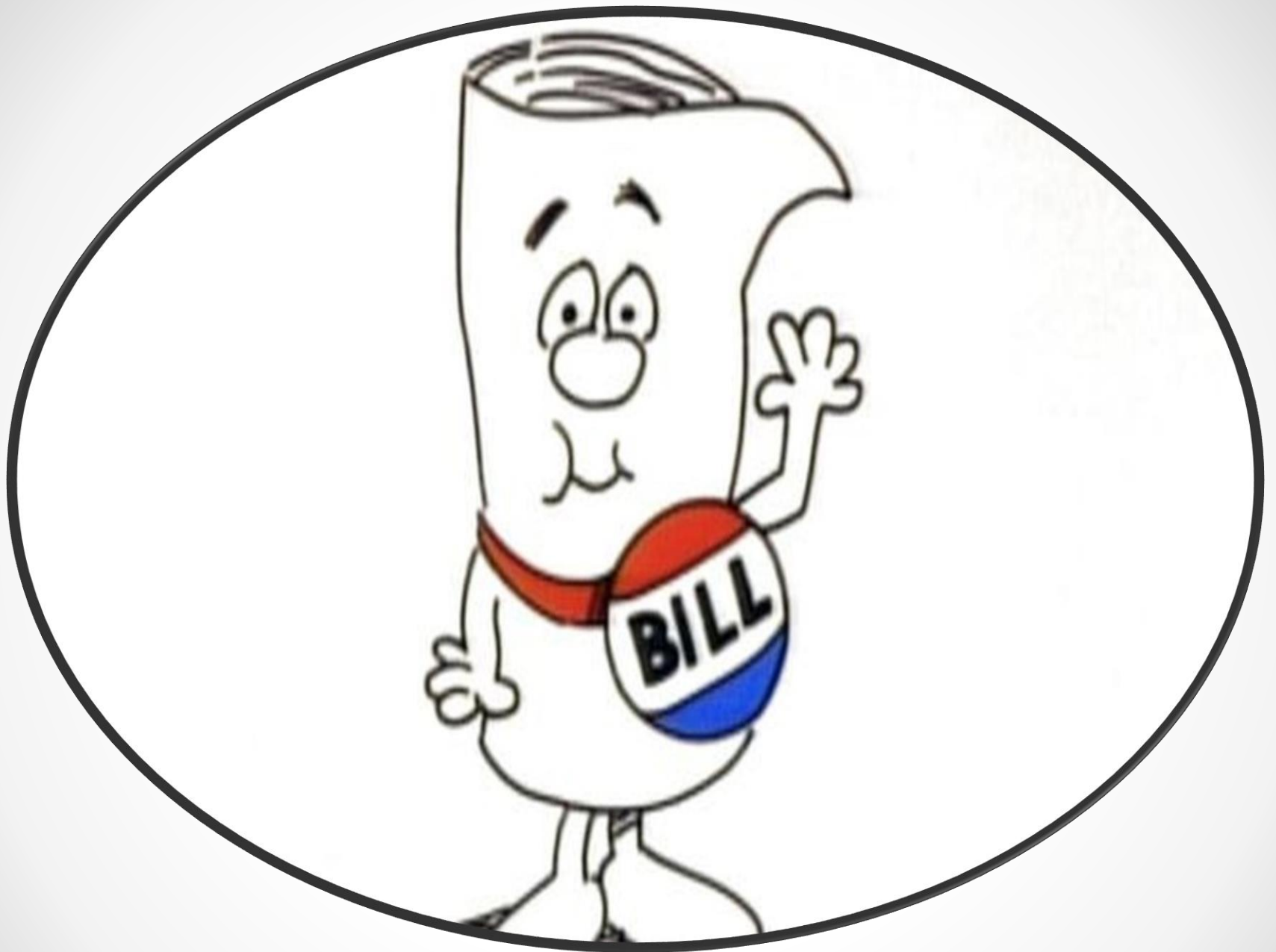
- Recognize the role of the healthcare provider in public policy advocacy
- Understand the importance of policy awareness in healthcare
- Articulate strategies and actions healthcare providers can take on public policy
- Review the Nurse Licensure Compact
- Review other IL Pending Legislation impacting Case Management

Civics 101

We live in a representative democracy.

So what does that mean?

- The People elect representatives to conduct public business
- That business is expressed in laws, resolutions, and the establishment of the institutions of government



Where do you come in?

Elected Representatives

- Not experts in all areas of legislation
- Turn to experts
 - Lobbyists
 - Concerned Citizens
 - Experts

Healthcare Providers

- Form professional organizations
 - Support, sponsor and run PACs and other political activity
- Serve as expert witnesses at hearings
- Advocate for particular issues

Thesis

- Public Policy matters
- Our system of democratic debate, negotiations and compromise is broken
- Our Healthcare system has taken a major hit
- It is time to return some sanity to healthcare public policy

Some of the most qualified experts are right here
“in this room”.

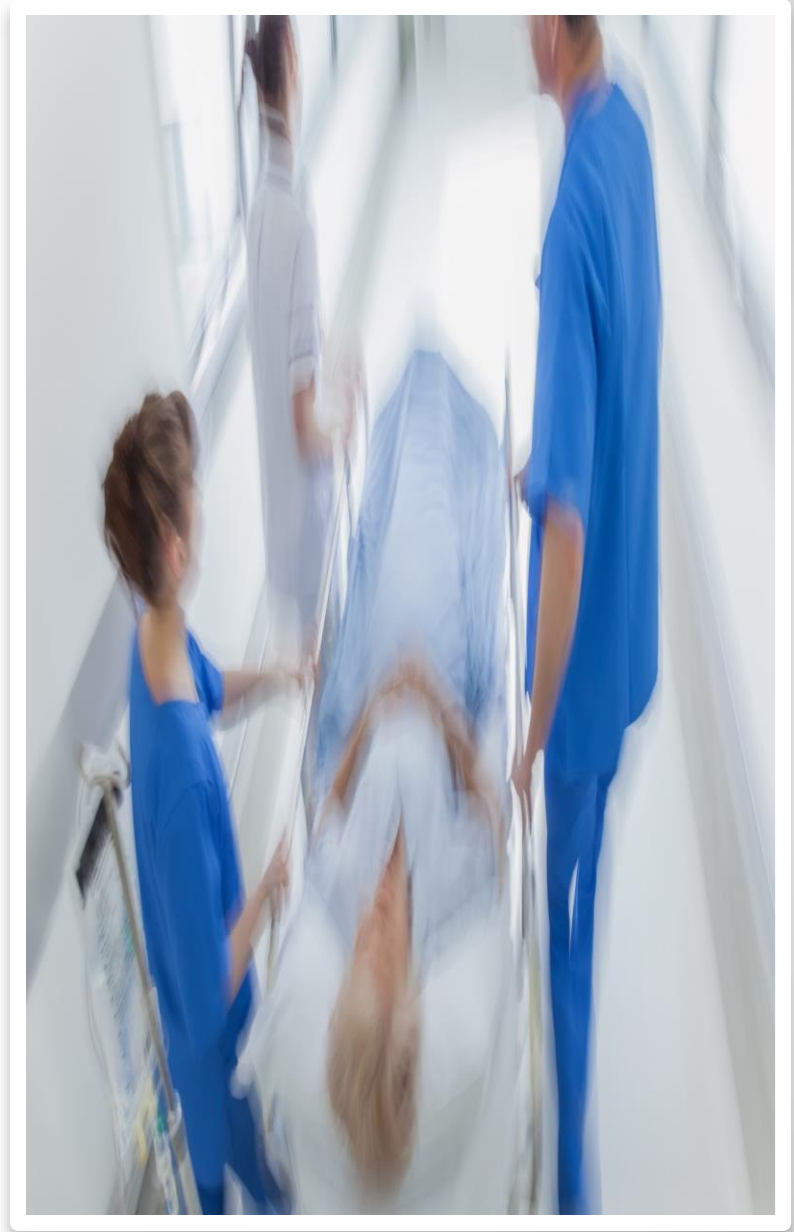
As the interdisciplinary coordinators, case manager RNs & SWs know, better than many others, the issues and problems in healthcare, social systems (social determinants of health) and the overall impact on our patients/clients/members' lives.

Some of us even have some good ideas about solutions.

What's at stake?

We need stable and predictable funding to care for people and plan for the future

- The status quo is not working
- Leaders are largely looking to score political points
- Few are seeking or providing solutions



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
- Margaret Meade

What can we do?

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Use our positions and power for good!

Professional organizations

contribute substantial support and benefit to their members' professional development and stature, by:

- Providing resources;
- Advocating directly for the profession;
- Influence public perception and debate;

therefore benefitting:

- Practitioners
- Clients
- Society

Professional Case Management

What We Do

“Professional case management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation and **advocacy** for options and services to meet an individual's and family's comprehensive health needs through communication and available resources to promote patient safety, quality of care, and cost effective outcomes”

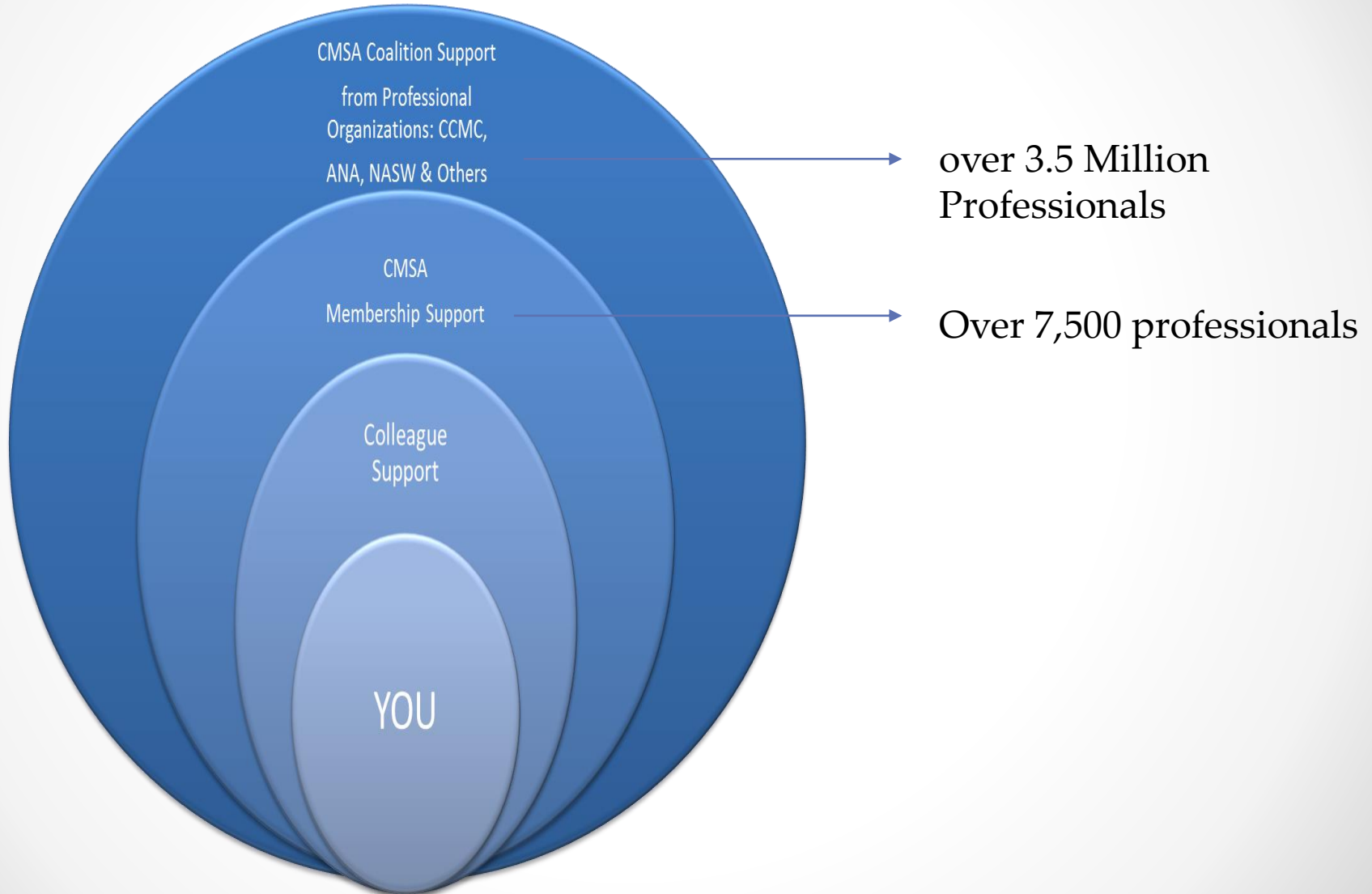
CMSA Standards of Practice, 2016

Get involved

CMSA, ANA, NASW, others

- They work on policy and organize efforts to influence legislation, but need members to volunteer to help
- Show up and make your presence known

Circles of Influence



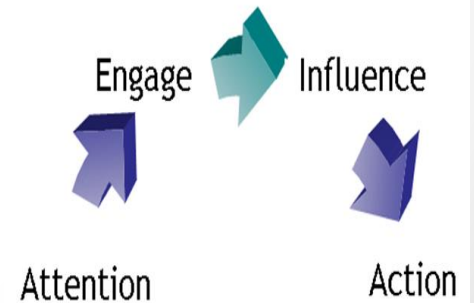
How can you influence public policy?

Legislators are political leaders are not experts on all things - they need help.

Help comes from many sources:

- Staff
- Lobbyist
- Expert witnesses
- Concerned citizens
- Groups that advocate for specific issues
- YOU!

The arc of influence:
influencers perspective



Health Care is Complex and You are the Expert!

Our political leaders need:

- Help defining the issues
- Guidance in finding solutions
- Recommendations to evaluate the options

You can offer:

- Expert advice
- Clear, focused information based on personal experience and professional training
- Real life stories to illustrate a need



Share Your Stories

Relating information by a story is:

- ✓ Compelling
- ✓ Memorable
- ✓ Influential
- ✓ Interesting
- ✓ Engaging

So communicate it with a story!



Get to Know your Representatives

Take Opportunities to Meet and Talk with Them

- *Legislative Town Halls*
- *Ribbon cuttings*
- *Local board meetings*
- *Office hours*
- *Campaign events*
- *Drop by the office*
- *Build a relationship through communication*



We Are Not Talking About Adding Things to Your To Do List!

We are suggesting you think differently about politics while you do what you already do!

- What issues do you care about?
- What groups do you support?
- What social problems and issues weigh on your heart?

When you engage in activities related to your legislator, think about what legislation, local boards, public committees are influencing them.



How?

Your professional organization will help find opportunities.

- ✓ Sign an online petition – **Minimal**
- ✓ Send an email – **small impact**
- ✓ Make a call – **bigger impact**
- ✓ Organize your friends to each e-mail or call – **huge impact**

If the staff or your legislator know you, then you have even bigger impact!

Why?

Who is defining your practice?

Lack of participation in the political process as a professional allows others to define who we are and impact quality, safety and outcomes of the clients we serve.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Will I have to argue?
- What if the legislator has a different party affiliation than I do?
- How will I speak knowledgably about the issue?
- Will it take a lot of time?



CALL TO ACTION 1

- Make a list of issues and situations you care about
 - Now consider what laws, regulations and political bodies influence those things.
- Choose one issue to investigate
 - Is there anything you can do to support an organization, influence a leader, or make others aware of the need you perceive?

If you are not at the table...

...then you are on the menu!

“Legislation impacts nursing careers, shapes health care policy and influences the care delivered to patients”

(Scheidt, L., 2012)



Topics for Consideration & Review of Current Legislation Pending in Illinois

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How To Be Effective as a Legislative Advocate

- Be an informed voter/advocate
 - Know what the candidate or other side supports
 - Who else is supporting the candidate or issue
 - Listen to what they say
- Educate yourself on the issue(s)
 - Who is responsible for it?
 - Who could solve it?
 - What needs to happen to ensure the solutions are available for as many people as possible?
- Identify allies
- Identify the decision-makers you want to influence

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Title Protection

- Why Does Title Protection Matter?
 - Protects the public by ensuring those using a designated professional title meet educational requirements as outlined in the law.
- NASW- there are states that have enacted title protection for the Social Worker
- Nursing - there are states that have title protection language in their state's Nurse Practice Act
- Professional Case Managers?

How?

Case management model act

- <https://tinyurl.com/CMSAModelAct>

Public awareness campaigns

- Public Service Announcements
- Publication
 - articles, editorials, blogs, social media posts

Protecting the value of our certifications

NASW focus

Key Policy Issues

- Affordable Care Act Integration
- Child Welfare
- Medicare Reimbursement
- Older Americans Act
- Social Worker Safety
- Student Loan Forgiveness
- Social Work Reinvestment Act
- Advancing the American Agenda: How the Social Work Profession Will Help

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KdViBtJaxtw%3d&portalid=0>

ILLINOIS HOUSE BILLS

- ◎ HR 691: End of Life Resources Education
- ◎ HB 5510: Prior Authorization Reform
- ◎ HB 4963: Telehealth Insurance Coverage
- ◎ HB 176: Medicaid Redetermination
- ◎ HB 1459: Nurse License Compact

ILLINOIS SENATE BILLS

- ◎ SB 2309: Unidentified Patient
- ◎ SB 2561: Telehealth Insurance Reimbursement
- ◎ SB 3524: Healthcare Surrogate POLST
- ◎ SB 3067: Nurse License Compact
- ◎ SB 3093: Nurse License Compact

CALL TO ACTION 2

- <http://www.ilga.gov/>
 - Explore, get familiar with the site
 - Create your “My Legislation” list to follow bills of interest
- <http://my.ilga.gov/>
 - Set up your account so you can file WITNESS SLIPS and have your voice be heard
 - Can only be done when Legislature in session
 - See handout for step by step

Nurse Licensure Compact

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Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

The passage of this NLC bill in Illinois will allow:
An Illinois Registered Nurse (RN) to hold their primary license
in Illinois while also holding a multi-state nursing license to
practice in all thirty four compact states

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

SB 3067: Senate Sponsors

- Iris Martinez
- Sara Feigenholtz
- Chapin Rose

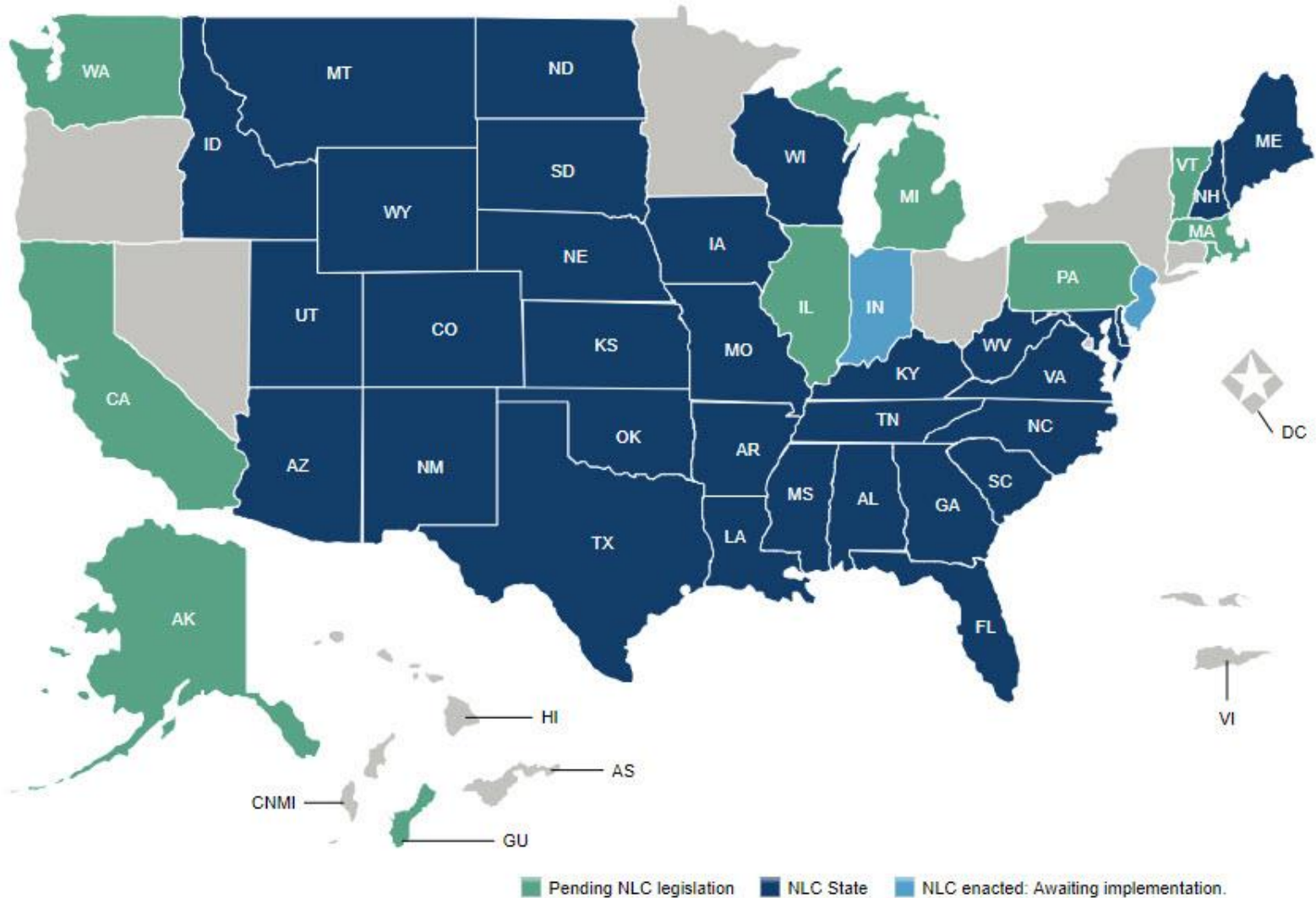
SB 3093: Senate Sponsor

- Chapin Rose

HB 1459: House Sponsors

- Rep. Michael J. Zalewski
- Linda Chapa LaVia
- Tom Demmer
- Grant Wehrli
- Jay Hoffman
- Tom Weber
- Kelly M. Cassidy
- Terri Bryant
- LaToya Greenwood
- Dave Severin
- Deanne M. Mazzochi
- Terra Costa Howard
- Dan Brady
- Randy E. Frese

Nurse Licensure Compact



Why We Should Pass NLC?

- Emergency Preparedness; Disaster Assistance; Public Health Emergencies
- Job creation and access to modern workforce technologies
- Access to care for patients is a basic human right
- Right to work, in job you are qualified, is a basic human right
- Climate Change? Thoroughly GREEN way of working
- We are the United States – we are inter-connected in our work
- Protects employees from unsafe or hostile work environments
- Allows nurses with workplace injuries or chronic conditions to work
- Family Friendly and / or Work / Life balance enrichment
- Allows nurses to be employed in tele-education (i.e Distance education)

High School Debate – 101 Lesson:

Know other side:

- Just because a law may seem clearly valuable and a necessity, we have to remember.... We live in Illinois... which also houses Chicago...
- Illinois and Chicago is Huge Union country. Illinois unions are powerful and are exponentially more powerful with the backing of national union, AFL-CIO, & House Speaker, Mike Madigan.
- Just because a law may seem clearly valuable and a necessity, we have to remember.... We live in Illinois... which also houses Chicago...
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Union's argument against NLC:

- a) Nurse should get a license in every state they practice- **? JUSTIFICATION**
- b) Patient safety- "other" border state nurses will give sub-par care- **NOT TRUE**
- c) Illinois can't regulate "other" nurses – **NOT TRUE**
- d) Won't increase patient access to care or address nurse shortage – **NOT TRUE**
- e) Border nurses come to Illinois for higher wages & siphon revenue - **NOT TRUE**
- f) Border nurses will come to Illinois & intimidate Illinois nurses when they are negotiating contracts & fighting for higher income & patient safety issues– **NOT TRUE**
- g) Will harm Nursing Student job prospects – **NOT TRUE**

Networking (Part I)

- We are a very diverse membership in many ways
 - We also have different social relationships, work environments, personal and professional interests
 - We need to take advantage of our diversity
- If just one of the arguments in the position paper strikes a chord in you and inspires you to get more involved
 - Think about MADD – Mothers' Against Drunk Drivers and what they were able to do related to drinking and driving laws
- We can do the same with NLC passage
- Please think about people you know in your social and work circles. Maybe you know a friend of a friend who is a senator or representative. Maybe you know somebody who is connected with a professional organization who can help us get this legislation passed

Networking (Part 2)

Do you have any connections to groups below?

Do you know of any groups that are not listed below that we should ask to be part of our coalition?

We have thirty plus coalition organizations who support NLC

• Nursing Organizations:

- Air & Surface Transport Nurses
- American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
- American Assoc. of Colleges of Nursing
- American Assoc. of Neuroscience Nurses
- American Assoc. of Occupational Health Nurses
- American Nephrology Nurses Assoc
- American Organization of Nurse Executives
- Assoc. of Camp Nurses
- Emergency Nurses Assoc
- National League for Nursing
- National Student Nurses' Assoc
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

• Other Healthcare Organizations:

- American Assoc. of Poison Control Centers
- American Telemedicine Association
- Assoc. of Vascular Access
- Case Management Society of America
- Center for Telehealth and E-Health Law
- CGFNS International, Inc
- Citizens Advocacy Center
- Commission for Case Manager Certification
- Cross Country Healthcare
- Health IT Now
- Hospital Corporation of America
- Healthcare National Military Family Assoc
- National Governors Assoc. for Best Practices
- National Patient Safety Foundation
- Optum
- Population Health Alliance
- Telehealth Leadership Council
- U.S Department of Commerce
- World Wide Health Staff Solutions Ltd.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- April 14th – May 31st: Close of 2020 legislative session
- Watch for updates to Legislative sessions and calendars d/t COVID 19

CALL TO ACTION 3

- Use your smart phone or other device and go to <https://nursecompact.com/take-action.htm> and sign a letter, which can be personalized, showing your support for NLC passage.
 - It takes less than one minute to complete and send letter.
 - It will be electronically sent to your specific state representative, state senator and Illinois Governor Pritzker

Conclusion

- Public policy matters in our every day professional and personal lives
- Healthcare professionals have a responsibility to our clients
- We can make a difference by getting involved.

Questions?

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