

ANA-NY 2019 Annual Meeting Report



Name of committee

Legislation Committee

Report details/accomplishments

Overall Legislative priorities; Pandemic responsiveness, Safe staffing, Improved patient care outcomes, Healthcare reform.

Position Number

Support 12

Oppose 4

Watch 20

No Position 3

Bills added no position at this time 26

Signed by the Governor 3

As of this writing, the committee is tracking 68 healthcare-related bills.

New York State Legislature. The breakout of positions on the bills are as follows:

The main bill the committee focused on this year was safe staffing. ANA-NY strongly supported the bill, and it reflects a model that ANA-NY had strongly advocated for years. A108-B sponsored by Assembly member Gunther, and S1168-A sponsored by Senator Rivera, relied on outcomes-based staffing, which is based on research and evidence-based practices, and would require each hospital to establish an ongoing commitment to create and have the authority to implement nurse staffing plans that are specific to each unit of the hospital or long-term care setting. This legislation would also require the public reporting of these staffing plans and tracking the care outcomes.

The Safe Staffing Bill (A108-B/S1168) was signed by the Governor on 6/18. This bill relates to staffing in acute care hospital settings. A separate bill focused on Nursing Home Staffing Levels (A7119/S6346P) was created to address nursing home facilities. This bill included set staffing ratios and was signed into law on 6/18.

A Racial equity bill (A5679-A /S2987) to address racism as a public health crisis was created, and ANA NY provided a memo of support.

Community paramedicine bill to provide expanded privileges for paramedics in the community (A151/S1590). ANA-NY has historically opposed the bill because of concerns related to lack of definition of the scope of practice of community paramedicine, nature of supervision, and the possibility of impeding nursing practice; however, concern for community access to care is shared. Amy Kellogg reached out to bill sponsors regarding areas of concern and potential amendments to the bill.

The Legislation committee reviewed legislation to require continuing education for nurses in New York. These educational, legislative activities included Bills addressing Continuing education hours for nurses and simulation hours permissible for prelicensure RN clinical degree programs.

ANA NY has met with NYSNA to discuss ways to best collaborate and partner together regarding legislative activities. ANA-NY continued coalition efforts to raise awareness on the value of immunizations and continued work with the Tobacco-Free New York Coalition.

Virtual lobby week ran from Wednesday, May 6th, and for the duration of National Nurses Week, which ran through May 12th. This year's theme for National Nurses Week is "Nurse: A Voice to Lead." Given all that has occurred over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic, this theme is appropriate. There were 59 participants for virtual lobby week and 128 connections.

The work of the NY legislature for the remainder of the session related to bills of local interests such as sales tax and pension bills.

Chair Name

Denise Rivera, MBA, RN, CHPN

Committee Members

Alyssa Balentine, MPH, RN
Thomas Bonfiglio, RN
Francine Bono-Neri, MA, RN, PNP
Susan Dewey-Hammer, RN, APRN
Catherine Finlayson, RN
Beverly Karas-Irwin, DNP, RN, NP-C, HNB-BC, NEA-BC
Susan Penque, RN
Donna Tydings, RN
Deb Wolff, RN
Sarah Valentine, RN

Marilyn Dollinger, DNS, FNP, RN (ANA-NY President)
Jeanine Santelli, RN (ANA-NY Executive Director)

ANA-NYLobbyist: Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP.
Amy Kellogg, Esq. (P)

Board Liaison

Susan Chin, PhD, RN, NNP-BC

Number of meetings held

The committee had seven meetings

Comments/recommendations to the Board of Directors

No recommendations currently.

Goals for Coming Year:

Continue to monitor progress of the racial equality bill, safe staffing bill, community paramedicine bill and continuing nursing education bills. Continued coalition efforts to raise awareness of the value of immunizations.