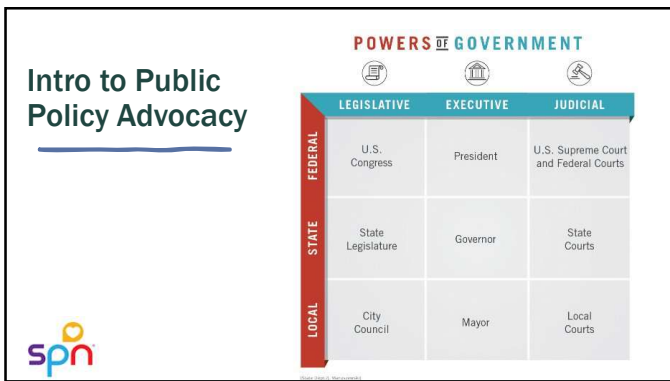


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What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is storytelling to impact change and to build support for the causes and policies you care about.

Advocacy can be:

- Elevating the voices of those being impacted by an issue
- Building community support for your cause
- Encouraging policymakers to create policies and programs

4

“No one is going to listen to a nurse on Capital Hill” 

Trained to be advocates

The most trusted workforce

The largest healthcare workforce


See the impact of poorly designed legislation play out

➔

Nurses are the PERFECT profession to make an impact on public policy that can improve public health and patient outcomes

5

Nurse Political Advocacy Training Day Proposal



The Gap

- No formal training on political advocacy or public policy for RNs
- Monthly med student/resident training
- Ongoing request in learning needs assessment
- Current involvement hesitation
 - Hospital policy alignment

The Evidence

- Public policy impacts social determinants of health
- Training promotes effective policy development
- Professional obligation
- Improves empowerment, morale, and retention

6



Nurse Political Advocacy Training (NPAT)

- 2 trainings 2024 & 2025
- 44 nurse leaders
- 4 hour in-person training at the State Capitol
- Training outline:
 - Civics 101
 - Meet lawmakers
 - Current Gov Affair priorities
 - Advocacy strategies
 - Interactive tour: "How a bill becomes a law"
 - Commitment

7

Training assessment

Assessment tool

- Modified Political Astuteness Inventory tool (PAI)
 - 18 questions: yes or no
- Surveyed participants at 4 intervals: pre, immediate-post, 3 months-post and 6-months post

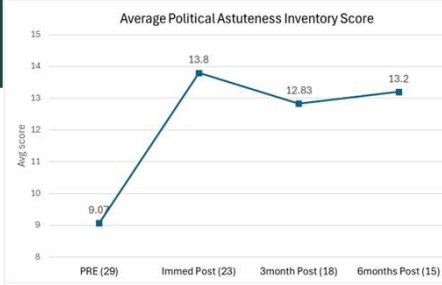
SCORE
 0-4 points = politically unaware
 5-9 points = slightly aware
 10-14 point = political awareness
 15-18 points = politically astute

- I know the names of my senator and representative in my local district
- I am acquainted with the voting record of at least one of the above representatives in specific health issues
- I have communicated about health-related policy to one of my state or local representatives
- I serve as a health policy resource for one of my state or local representatives
- I follow a political party, representative or group on their social media platform
- I know the process by which a bill is introduced and becomes a law (Clark, 2008)

8

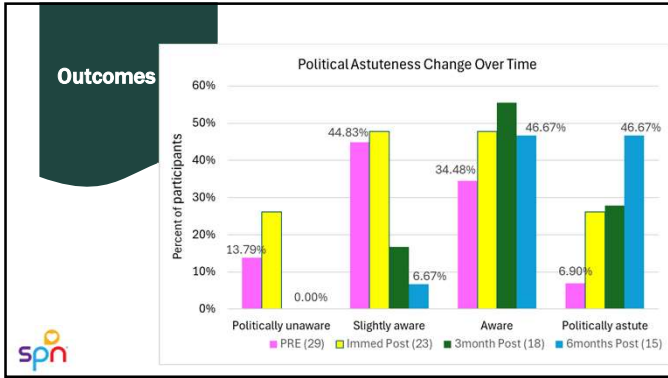
Outcomes

SCORE
 0-4 points = politically unaware
 5-9 points = slightly aware
 10-14 point = political awareness
 15-18 points = politically astute



| Interval | Avg score |
|-------------------|-----------|
| PRE (29) | 9.07 |
| Immed Post (23) | 13.8 |
| 3month Post (18) | 12.83 |
| 6months Post (15) | 13.2 |

9



10

Lessons Learned

- Nurses are hungry for this training
- Clear intentions of goal
- Policy and bipartisan alignment
- Political astuteness grows with time

Barriers

- Top-down vs bottom-up
- In-person logistics, cost and time

Next Steps

- Changemakers 2026
- Advocacy Moment pilot

11

Let's practice!

- Legislator look up
<https://nn4you.org>
- Review their website, committee work, voting record

Email best practices

- Introduce yourself as a constituent
- Flex your expertise
- Your why
- Your ask
- Thank them
- Assure compliance with organization, prof association, school, etc.

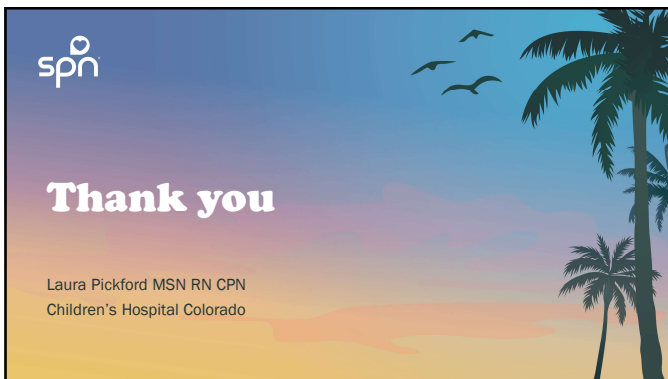
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