Nurse as Legislator

Representative Anne Perry, FNP
EXPERIENCE

- REGISTERED NURSE SINCE 1970
- FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER SINCE 1998
- MAINE HOUSE 2002-2010 AND 2017-PRESENT.
- COMMITTEES –
  - HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES 2006-2010, 2017-8
  - INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES -2002-2006
  - HEALTHCARE REFORM COMMITTEE -2002-4
- PRESIDENT MAINE NURSE PRACTITIONER ASSOCIATION
Top 8 attributes of a Nurse.

- Communication Skills
- Emotional Stability.
- Empathy
- Flexibility.
- Attention to Detail
Top 10 attributes of a Nurse.

- Interpersonal Skills
- Physical Endurance.
- Problem Solving Skills.
- Quick response
- Respect
9 Essential Nursing Skills

*Compassion.

- Communication. ...
- Ethics. ...
- Critical Thinking. ...
9 Essential Nursing Skills

- Attention To Detail.
- Confidence.
- Adaptability.
- Stamina.
What a Legislator Does

- Draft or approve policies, regulations, budgets, and programs
- Debate and analyze the impact of proposed laws
- Vote on bills and on motions to enact them into law
- Collaborate and negotiate with other legislators to resolve differences and reach agreements
What a Legislator Does

- Seek funding for projects and programs in their district
- Appoint nominees to leadership posts or approve appointments by the chief executive
- Serve on committees, panels, and study groups for special policy issues
- Listen to and address the concerns of people they represent
- Invite and listen to testimony from people who are concerned about an issue or likely to be affected by a law if it is passed
5 HABITS OF AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATOR

- Habit 1:
  - Develop a legislative agenda rooted in personal background, previous experiences and policy expertise.

- Habit 2:
  - Develop a legislative agenda tightly focused on district needs.
5 HABITS OF AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATOR

❖ Habit 3:
❖ Be entrepreneurial with positions of institutional power. Habit 3 points to the use of committee and leadership positions to advance policymaking agendas,

❖ Habit 4:
❖ Be open to compromise, even with those who are not natural allies.
5 HABITS OF AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATOR

- Habit 5: Cultivate a broad set of allies, even beyond the legislative body.
MAINE'S PATH OF LEGISLATION

- IDEA DEVELOPED
- BILL DRAFTED
- BILL INTRODUCED
MAINE'S PATH OF LEGISLATION

- COMMITTEE REFERENCE
- COMMITTEE ACTION
- GENERAL ORDER
- SECOND READING
MAINE'S PATH OF LEGISLATION

- SECOND CHAMBER
- GOVERNOR
- LAW
NURSE ADVOCATE AND EXPERT

- Influencing the legislative process
KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS!

- They are people.
- Know how to find the information to contact them
  - Email
  - Letter
  - Phone
  - In person
YOU ARE THE EXPERT

- LIFE EXPERIENCE
- WORK IN HEALTH CARE
- PATIENT EXPERIENCE
- REQUEST TO HAVE A BILL INTRODUCED
Tips for preparation

- Reading the bill
  - Analyze the proposed bill in its entirety.
  - Summarize the major content.
  - Summarize your point of view.
  - Add facts/experience where possible.
Questions to think about

- How can I persuade others that my position is the one to take?
- How do I show the validity of my position?
- How can I communicate effectively?
- How can I demonstrate logical arguments for my position and show evidence when necessary?
- How can I be effective in my overall presentation?
TESTIMONY

- State the intent of the bill.
- State the section(s) being analyzed.
- Give the history of the issue(s) addressed in the bill. Include facts and other policies that identify why this problem needed legislative action.
- Identify major groups for or against the bill and summarize their best arguments.
- Present a closing argument for your position.
Good afternoon Senator Volk, Representative Fecteau and members of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee. I am Representative Anne Perry, and I represent nine communities in Washington County. I am here today to introduce LD 5 3 8, An Act to Allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Who Have Attained Certain Degrees to Use the Title of Doctor.

This bill simply requests that a Nurse Practitioner who has achieved the degree of Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) be allowed to be called Doctor with the suffix of DNP.

I would contend that these practitioners have worked hard to earn their doctorates, and that they deserve to be called Doctor, as long as it is clear that their doctorate is nurse practice and that they have the appropriate initials, DNP, after their name. This is consistent with current law where chiropractors, dentists, naturopaths, optometrists, podiatrists and chiropodists can all use the prefix doctor as long as they have the appropriate designation after their name.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.
Senator Volk, Representative Fecteau and members of the Labor, Commerce & Economic Development Committee,

My name is Kathleen Forti Gallant and I live in Stetson, Maine. I am presenting testimony in support of LD 538, An
Act to Allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Who Have Attained Certain Degrees to Use the Title of Doctor:

A doctorate is a terminal degree earned through an academic institution. Currently there is a statute in Title 32,
Chapter 48, subchapter 2, that prohibits anyone other than physicians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, and
chiropractors using the title of Dr. Some of the groups have to add suffixes such as chiropractors, naturopaths,
dentists, podiatrists. Therefore, anyone else that uses the title of doctor (Dr.) other than these groups is committing a
class E crime under current Maine law. Maine is one of only a very few states that has this type of law.

Advanced Practice Nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, clergy, professors, psychologists,
teachers, etc. can earn a doctoral degree that is not a medical doctorate (M.D.). This bill would allow Advanced
Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with a doctoral degree to use the prefix or title of Dr." or "Doctor" as long as the
suffix of DNP for Doctorate of Nursing Practice, or PhD for Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, is used after their
name to avoid confusion with the M.D. The title of Doctor represents an academic credential that is not owned by
medicine. We believe that by earning a doctoral degree, we should have the same opportunity and right as other
professions to use the title of "Dr." with the suffix so that it would not be misconstrued that we are Medical Doctors.
We educate our patients and the public that we are nurse practitioners, not physicians. The title of "Dr." would
indicate that we attained a doctoral degree that we should be able to be proud of. This is not a ploy to falsely market
ourselves as physicians, it is a title that has been earned by some of us in the nursing field that we should be able to
use as clinical professionals who attained a doctoral education.

I am encouraging you to vote in favor of LD 538, so please feel free to call me with any questions about this bill or
any other healthcare issues at # 207-296-2249 or 207-973-9980. Thank-you in advance for your consideration in this
matter.
sources

❖ blog.diversitynursing.com

❖ https://www.workitdaily.com/nursing-skills-practitioner/

❖ National Conference of State Legislatures

❖ Maine.gov