



# **Health Care Policy and Advocacy**

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# Speaker Disclosure Statement

- + Yvette Salas MSN, CRRN, is an Infection Preventionist at Encompass Health in Miami, Florida.
- + No off-label use will be discussed.
- + Yvette Salas has no industry relationships to disclose.

# Learning Objectives

1. Learner will demonstrate how to use the ARN Health Policy Tool Kit.
2. Learner will be able to engage with elected officials.
3. Learner will describe methods to become an advocate of change.

# Keys to Developing Advocacy Skills

- + Understand knowledge of self
- + Knowledge of treatments and interventions
- + Knowledge of health care system
- + Knowledge of how to put advocacy into action

# How to Engage with Elected Officials

Ask for an in-person meeting

Staffers or Legislative Assistants (LA) are just as good (sometimes better)

Follow-up with a thank-you letter

Communicate regularly (but not too often)

Telephone meetings are a good start

# Political Landscape for 2025

- + Some feel it volatile
- + Some are waiting to see the outcome
- + Change is always difficult
- + What ever our political views are- we must remain neutral when advocating



# Regulatory Rules

Every year CMS puts out several proposed rules that impact rehabilitation nurses and their patients

1. Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System (IRF-PAI)
2. Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System
3. Home Health Prospective Payment System (OASIS)

# Appropriations Legislation

## **Nursing Workforce Development Programs**

*The RN and APRN pipelines rely on HRSA Title VIII program support to advance all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention.*

*Support appropriations request of \$530 million for the Title VIII nursing programs at HRSA.*

## **Nursing Research**

*The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) works to create cost-effective and high-quality health care through both basic and clinical research.*

*Support appropriations request of \$210 million for the NINR.*

## **Rehabilitation Research**

*The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) provides support for a comprehensive program of research related to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities.*

*Support appropriations request of \$150 million for the NIDILRR.*

## **Traumatic Brain Injury**

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Injury Prevention and Control program includes funding for TBI.*

*Support appropriations request of \$11.7 million for the TBI programs.*



# Ensuring Our Advocacy Efforts Align with the ARN

## 2023-2025 Strategic Plan



### ENGAGEMENT

Engage members and stakeholders to advance ARN's mission



### VISIBILITY

Position ARN as the leader of evidence-based rehabilitation, nursing, education and practice



### KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICE

Advance rehabilitation nursing through content based on research, evidence and advocacy.

# ARN Health Policy Committee Achievements in 2023-2024

- + Sign-on opportunities

ARN signed onto 35 coalition letters in 2023 and 26, so far, in 2024.

- + Comment Letters

ARN submitted 9 comment letters of our own in 2023 and 2024.

- + Supporting Legislation

ARN endorsed 11 pieces of legislation in 2023.

- + AMRPA Partnership

Worked together on IRF workforce issues, focusing on rehab nursing.

- + Capitol Advocates - In planning phase

Developing a group of geographically local members to participate in periodic in-person advocacy in Washington, DC.

# **ARN Health Policy Committee Goals for 2025-2026**

- + Capitol Advocates - In planning phase  
Developing a group of geographically local members to participate in periodic in-person advocacy in Washington, DC.
- + 15 min vignettes on toolkit
- + Going to chapters
- + Cap advocates - DMV
- + Potentially virtual hill day



# Learn More about Health Policy

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[HTTPS://REHABNURSE.ORG/ABOUT/HEALTH-POLICY-ADVOCACY](https://rehabnurse.org/about/health-policy-advocacy)

ARN HEALTH POLICY TOOL KIT

HEALTH POLICY DIGEST

# ARN Website

Familiarize yourself with the Health Policy and Advocacy tab on website (hover over the "About" tab and scroll down to the Health Policy and Advocacy link- there you will find the Advocacy toolkit, Issue Briefs, Position Statements, Sign on Letters, etc.

# ARN Website -- Toolkit

[About](#)

[Membership](#)

**History of ARN**

**Strategic Plan**

**Board of Directors**

Election

**DEI Statement**

**ARN Research**

Rehab Nursing Foundation

Research Grant Opportunities

Research Agenda

Caregiver Resource Grant

**Health Policy & Advocacy**

Grassroots Advocacy

Advocacy News

Advocacy Toolkit

ARN Issue Briefs

Sign-on Letters

Position Statements

## ARN's Health Policy Toolkit Educates and Informs

Welcome to the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Health Policy Toolkit. The purpose of this toolkit is to educate, inform, and encourage people interested in healthcare issues to become knowledgeable about the legislative process and become involved in health policy advocacy. Please use this information to take action to support rehabilitation nurses to improve the nation's healthcare system.

### Table of Contents

#### Introduction to Advocacy

Section 1: [Introduction to Advocacy](#)

#### Simple Refresher to United States Civics

Section 2: [Simple Refresher to United States Congress](#)

#### Engaging in Health Policy Advocacy and Communicating with Members of Congress

Section 3: [Engaging in Health Policy Advocacy and Communicating with Members of Congress](#)

#### Advocacy Tips and Tools

Section 4: [How to Use Social Media for Advocacy](#)

#### In Conclusion

Section 5: [Conclusion](#)

Section 6: [An Advocate's Dictionary](#)

# ARN - Grassroots Advocacy

Click on **TAKE ACTION!**

Urge Congress to support the nursing workforce and funding for nursing and rehabilitation research

Enter your address and zip code- then your name/email/phone on the next screen

The site will automatically choose your elected representatives and you can send it.

(There is an option to personalize the content with a story or personal request.)

# ARN Website- Sign on Letters

## 2025 Sign-on Letters

January 29, 2025 [Proposed Solutions to Improved Repairs and Maintenance of Complex Manual and Power Wheelchairs](#)

January 27, 2025 [ITEM Coalition Comments in Response to the Contract Year 2026 Medicare Part D Drug Benefit Proposed Rule \(CMS-4208-P\)](#)

January 27, 2025 [CPR Comments on the CY 2026 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Proposed Rule \(CMS-4208-P\)](#)



# **ARN Opportunities for Engagement**

Follow Legislative and Regulatory Activity

Sign on Letters

Engagement in Coalitions

CongressPlus Action Alerts

Website Resources like ARN's Advocacy Toolkit

A person's hands are gently holding a small, colorful globe of the Earth. The globe shows continents in green and yellow and oceans in blue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown. At the top of the image, there is a horizontal bar with a color gradient from yellow to orange to pink. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

**Thank you for  
your Attention!**

**Go and Change the World!**