Advocacy in Action

Nine members of California ENA traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with our national Representatives to advocate for two federal bills. ENA staff, national board members, and ENA Government Relations staff Rob Kramer and Richard Mercuri provided us with a preparation day of learning and practice sessions to maximize our Congressional meetings.

We met with 175 other ENA nurses from 47 states and learned about federal priorities for ENA, how to make our message comes across effectively, and how to incorporate social media. We had practice sessions with feedback to help us with our delivery of information with ENA mentors. A.B. Stoddard was our lunch speaker who provided us with a crash course in the current political climate in Washington D.C.

The first bill, H.R. 1309/S. 851 would require hospitals to provide staff training on workplace violence, develop plans to minimize risk of violence towards staff, and require reporting of assaults on
staff. When we met with our California Senators Kamela Harris and Diane Feinstein, their Legislative Aides stated that they appreciated the work we do and agree with the bill. Both were considering co-sponsoring or supporting the bill. We also met with our district Representatives where we were able to tell personal stories about incidents in hospitals in their hometowns.

Our second bill, H.R. 776/S. 1173 would reauthorize funding for Emergency Medical Children's Services which provides grants for research that all Emergency Departments can utilize to improve their care of children. One aspect of EMSC is Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN). Some of the many topics they have researched and produced recommendations for children's care are: pediatric sepsis, pediatric DKA fluid resuscitation, pediatric readiness for disasters, and algorithms for head CTs for injuries involving loss of consciousness. All the Legislators we met with were interested in supporting this legislation.

Our group made an impact by visiting our national Representatives and voicing our concerns and recommendations. We were met with enthusiastic responses from everyone we met with and are already looking forward to another successful visit next year!

Who represents you?

State representatives:
40 Senators
80 Assemblymembers

National representatives (Congress):
2 Senators
53 Representatives

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Federal bill infographics: