



## Why are nurses uniquely suited to lead the work of grassroots advocating?

**Nurses are the most trusted profession.** For the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the 2019 Gallup Poll states 84% of respondents rated nurses “very high” for honesty & ethical standards.

**Nurses are healthcare experts.** Nurses are educated in nursing programs based on scientific knowledge. Licensed to practice nursing, registered professional nurses own practice authority, are autonomous and accountable as healthcare professionals.

**Nurses are reliable educated and competent problem solvers.** Nursing education is evidenced based combining knowledge and clinical reasoning. Clinical decision-making is largely considered a “hallmark” of expert nursing. The ability to carry out competent decision-making is a critical and fundamental aspect of professional nursing.

**Nurses are responsible advocates.** The American Nurses Association's Code of Ethics for Nurses and Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice clearly identify nurses' ethical and professional responsibility for protecting the safety and rights of their patients.

**Political nurse advocacy mirrors patient advocacy.** Reacting to issues of injustice, inequality, or powerlessness is referred to as *political consciousness*, and it is what sets policy-shaping in action. It is the same formula nurses use to address problems: **A**ssess, **P**lanning, **I**mplement and **E**valuate (APIE), a systematic problem-solving approach.

### **Decades of nursing research supports more nurses with less patients improves outcomes.**

There is a relationship between registered nurse staff with decreased patient workloads and lower hospital related mortality & adverse patient events.

<https://dpeaflcio.org/programs-publications/issue-fact-sheets/safe-staffing-ratios-benefiting-nurses-and-patients/>

**Better nurse staffing saves hospitals money.** Hospitals with higher nurse staffing had **25 %** lower odds of being penalized compared to otherwise similar hospitals with lower staffing. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/pdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2013.0613>

Nurse staffing can provide a competitive advantage to hospitals and as a result better financial performance. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4543286/pdf/nihms513833.pdf>

### **Testimony of the worker (registered nurse) is powerful describing their work environment.**

Legislators wish to hear from their **constituents** & have the following questions answered:

1. What actions the constituent wishes the legislator to take on the policy?
2. Why does the constituent want the legislator to support such a policy/issue?
3. What are the current or potential or local impacts of the issue?
4. What are the constituent's personal stories or connections to the policy?

[http://www.congressfoundation.org/storage/documents/CMF\\_Pubs/cmf-citizen-centric-advocacy.pdf](http://www.congressfoundation.org/storage/documents/CMF_Pubs/cmf-citizen-centric-advocacy.pdf)

### **Nurses who deliver direct patient care abide by national nursing standards. Health industry fashions staffing plans and abides by business standards.**

Legislators need to understand the difference. The industry spends more on MDs, pharmaceuticals & administrative costs. [https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/documents/\\_media\\_files\\_publications\\_in\\_the\\_literature\\_2018\\_mar\\_papanicolas\\_htt\\_care\\_spending\\_us\\_other\\_countries\\_jama\\_03\\_13\\_2018\\_itl.pdf](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/documents/_media_files_publications_in_the_literature_2018_mar_papanicolas_htt_care_spending_us_other_countries_jama_03_13_2018_itl.pdf)

### **Nurse constituents make great POLICY ADVOCATES. Nurses outnumber any profession.**

Opinion leaders identified top barriers to nurses' influence perceived as not important decision makers/revenue generators or having a single voice on national issues.

Those opinions can all be debunked! **We do have a national issue & a national remedy.**

**Mandated Nursing Ratios. Support H.R. 2581/S.1357**