Steps Toward Change to Promote Child Health
Advocacy:
A Service Learning Experience
Lacey Eden, MS, NP-C & Karlen E. Luthy, DNP
Learning Outcomes

- Explain the political procedures for passing legislation
- Outline steps for successful drafting and lobbying of a bill and how to involve student nurses in the process.
- Empower nurses across the nation to be CHANGE agents and advocate for their patients.
“Why do nurses have to know this stuff?”

- Nurses are patient advocates
- Many aspects of health care are regulated through legislation
- Political activism advances the nursing profession
- Nurses already possess the skills for political activism
Nurses and political advocacy

- Skills and experience (Woodward, Smart, & Benavides-Vaello, 2016)
  - Conflict resolution
  - Problem-solving skills
  - Teamwork

- Barriers (Buck-McFadyen & MacDonnell, 2017)
  - Time constraints
  - Frustration
  - Burnout
  - Lack of understanding of political procedures (Lewinski & Simmons, 2018)
How a Bill becomes a Law

- Idea
- Bill Created
- Bill Drafting & Approval
  - Bill is numbered
How a Bill becomes a Law

- The bill is read 3 separate times
  - First reading
    - Decision of where the bill should be sent
  - Standing committee
How a Bill becomes a Law

- Second reading
  - Lobbying
  - Letter writing

- Third reading
How a Bill becomes a Law

- If amendments or substitutes are made:
  - <15 words on House floor
  - <10 words on Senate floor
  - Must be relevant to original bill
  - Protected

- Final Passage
  - Bill must pass by a constitutional majority
  - 38 aye votes in the House
  - 15 aye votes in the Senate
How a Bill becomes a Law

- The bill must pass in both houses
  - After it passes in one house, it gets sent to the other house
  - It goes through the same process
  - Legislator will find a sponsor in the opposite house

- If either house amends a bill, the bill is sent back to the first house

- If both houses do not agree on the amendment, the bill is sent back and the amendment is withdrawn
How a Bill becomes a Law

- Enrolling Process
- Delivered to Governor
  - After enrolling, bill is sent back to the House/Senate
  - House/Senate deliver enrolled bills to the governor for action.
How a Bill becomes a Law

- If the governor vetoes a bill:
  - Legislature can override the governor’s veto
  - 2/3 of the House/Senate must be in favor to assemble a veto override session (must begin within 60 days of adjournment)

- 2/3 vote required in both houses for override

- New laws become effective 60 days after adjournment, unless otherwise stated in the bill.
Be the CHANGE

- C: Collect
- H: Hinge
- A: Associations
- N: Negotiate
- G: Gather
- E: Expertise
C: Collect Data

- Know the facts
- Student nurses help gather the facts
“The data shows that roughly one out of every four schools fail to meet the "herd immunity" rate for measles (MMR) or whooping cough (DTaP). A school has to have at least 92 percent in either category to protect all students.”
Utah Kindergarten Exemption Rates

Utah Exemption Types

- Personal: 95%
- Medical: 4%
- Religious: 1%

H: Hinge

- Right Hinge and Right Location
- Brainstorm ideas with student nurses
State Immunization Program Manager Survey

In collaboration with:

- Association of Immunization Managers
- CDC

(Eden et al, 2017)
“Everything hinges on education. Without it, you can’t advocate for proper health care...”

Susan L. Taylor
A: Associations

- Gather recommendations, feedback, and interested parties on the language in the bill
  - Utah Chapter of AANP
  - Utah School Nurses Association
  - Local Health Departments
  - Utah Chapter of NAPNAP
  - Utah Chapter AAP
  - Utah Medical Association (UMA)
  - Legislature
N: Negotiate

- Find a Senator and House Representative to sponsor bill
- Draft Bill
HB 308 Sub 2: Public Health in Schools

- Require completion of online education prior to receiving exemption form
- Increase the frequency an exemption must be obtained
- 21 day conditional enrollment
G: Gather Support
Help us support House Bills

308 & 309

To protect our loved ones from preventable diseases

308 - Public Health Education Module

309 - Public Health in Schools

Support House Bills 308 & 309

To find out more information join our Facebook page!

Why Immunize Utah?

Or email us at:
whyimmunizeutah@gmail.com
Protect Utah from Preventable Diseases

Support House Bills 308 & 309

**House Bill 308**

* The State Health Department will create a standardized education module for parents seeking personal immunization exemptions. Education would include:

- Signs and symptoms of immunization preventable diseases
- Education on how community immunity works
- Training on 21-day exclusion rule for unimmunized children during outbreaks.
- Information about cost and locations where you can get immunizations
- Online availability, taking only 20 minutes and completion of the module meets requirement for all children in the family needing an exemption

**Education Module Completion Certificate Expires in Two Years.**

**House Bill 309**

- Require renewal of immunization exemption form at kindergarten and seventh grade.
  - Right now, immunization exemptions in kindergarten last until the child graduates from high school.
  - Required renewal at seventh grade would give exempting parents the opportunity to regularly evaluate responsibilities during a disease outbreak.
- Allow a 21-day conditional enrollment to get immunizations, records or exemption forms after the start of school.
  - Some transfer students need extra time to find immunization records. With this bill, children can start school while parents find or request records.
  - Parents may be unaware of immunization requirements for school. With this bill, parents have extra time to have child immunized.
Groups In Support

- Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Utah Nurse Practitioners Association
- Utah School Nurses Association
- Voices for Utah Children
- Utah Health Department
- PTA Association
- Utah Board of Education
E: Expect to be the Expert

Of course I talk to myself, Sometimes I need expert advice.
Politics is a Process- Not an Event

- Even after a bill passes, your work is not done.
Lessons Learned

- It’s not personal- it’s politics (Ok maybe it’s a little personal)
- Loyal lawmaker
- Need help
Tips to Improve the Experience

- How to talk to your legislator
  - Tell them real life stories
  - Know funding capabilities
  - Show them statistics

- How to be heard
  - They receive SO many emails
  - They have interns answer their phone
  - They are being broadcast to ALL of the time
  - Letters actually work!
  - Let them know who you are

