CANP Legislative Update 2014

Kristy Wiese
Lobbyist
Capitol Advocacy LLC
Year Two of 2013-2014 Session

- Legislature reconvened on January 6, 2014

- Session ends on August 31, 2014

- Governor Brown has 30 days to act upon all bills sent to his desk.
Bills, bills, bills.....

In the second year of a two-year session, some bills introduced in 2013 may continue to move through the process in 2014.

In 2014, Senators and Assembly Members introduced a combined total of 2,062 new bills.

Capitol Advocacy, on behalf of CANP, reviews all introduced bills and sends bills impacting NPs to the CANP Health Policy and Practice Committee (HPPC).
HPPC Committee Review

- This year, 34 bills impacting NPs were flagged for CANP.

- All of those bills, along with real-time updates about their status and any amendments, can be accessed via the Bill Tracker on the CANP website.

- The HPPC Committee members review those bills and identify in greater detail their impact on NPs, potential amendments that may be needed, and recommend a position for CANP to adopt.
HPPC Committee Process

- CANP Lobbyist makes recommendations on positions to the Committee (support, oppose, no position).
- HPPC discusses and determines position and priority.
- Position letters are finalized and then the lobbying begins!
2014 Legislation of Interest

- AB 1841, by Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, which would allow medical assistants to hand properly labeled and prepackaged prescription drugs, excluding controlled substances, to a patient. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (PPAC).
2014 Legislation of Interest

• AB 2346, by Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez, which would increase the physician supervision ratio for certified nurse midwives, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to 1 to 6 ratio. Sponsored by the California Medical Association (CMA).
2014 Legislation of Interest

• SB 1429, by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, which states the intent of the Legislature to bring interested parties together to develop a legislative solution to issues surrounding medical malpractice injury compensation. Sponsored by the Senator.
Covered California

- California continues to have the most robust health care exchange in the country, with the most aggressive implementation of the ACA.

- As of March 17, enrollment has passed the 1 million mark, with 1,018,315 new enrollees.

- In the Medi-Cal expansion, 968,500 new enrollees have signed up.
The Battle to Protect MICRA

- The Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) is California’s landmark health care liability reform law.

- MICRA’s reforms ensure that injured patients receive fair compensation while preserving patients’ access to health care.

- MICRA limits non-economic damages at $250,000. Allows unlimited damages for lost wages, medical costs, and punitive damages.
MICRA Under Attack

- Consumer Attorneys of California have filed a ballot initiative that would increase the cap on non-economic damages from $250,000 to $1.1 million on January 1, 2015.

- If qualified, would be on the November 2014 ballot.

- Expected to be a campaign of over $60 million spent on both sides.

- CANP is a member of CAPP, Californians Allied for Patient Protection (CAPP) and will be supportive of their efforts to oppose the initiative.
Full Practice Authority for NPs

- SB 491 (2013) by Senator Hernandez held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- Significant opposition from the California Medical Association (CMA) and other specialty medical.

- Significant support from AARP, California Hospital Association (CHA) and the California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG).
SB 491 – What We Saw

- Highest profile legislation for NPs to date;
- Most intense opposition from organized medicine to date;
- Significant interest from national NP groups;
- Extensive media coverage;
Strengths and Weaknesses

- NPs are viewed very favorably, however, there is a significant need for education about what NPs are, and are not, educated and trained to do.

- The timing is right – focus on expanded access to health care also has resulted in expanded discussion around who will provide that care.

- NPs are very passionate about their profession. Legislators who met with NPs were more likely to support SB 491.
Strengths and Weaknesses

- Formidable opposition with tremendous resources.

- Opposition has well-established, very active grassroots advocacy program.

- House of Medicine works more cohesively than the nursing profession.

- Media outreach, social media, well-trained spokespersons with availability to speak to media.
Going Forward.....

- CANP is ramping up its grassroots advocacy program.

- Each Chapter is being charged with expanding their relationship with local legislators.

- Opportunities to invite legislators to chapter meetings, NP participation at community events, meetings in district offices.

- Resources on CANP website.

- Grassroots Advocacy coordinator, Stephanie Nied Tseu, to support chapter efforts.
Going Forward.....

- CANP is securing data that will show the overlap between legislative districts and chapter maps.

- Identifying NPs who work in unique practice settings and can be available for media outreach.

- Working with coalition partners to develop CA specific data that supports expanded role for NPs.

- Resources.......
What can YOU do?

- Support efforts at your Chapter to invite legislators (and candidates) to come to a Chapter Meeting to learn more about what NPs do, where they practice, etc.

- Lobby Day – May 20, 2014

- Get involved – attend events, support media efforts, become more active in CANP.
Questions?