



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS

CANP GRASSROOTS PLAYBOOK

What can I do to support SB 491?

There are several ways you can help support SB 491 (Hernandez). The best way to influence legislators is, as a constituent, to meet with them and their staff in their district offices. Hearing directly from you on the importance of passing this bill is the single most important action you can take. Additionally, you should take the opportunity to educate legislators you meet about what a nurse practitioner is. Legislators want to hear your stories and patient interactions as they are very powerful tools.

To support SB 491 efforts, you can:

1. Send a [support letter](#) or email to your Assemblymember.
2. Participate in online campaigns sent via our [Grassroots Action Center](#), including our latest addressing the members of the Assembly Committee on Business, Profession and Consumer Protection. The greatest impact on elected officials comes when they hear from the people they represent. If you are not a constituent of any members of this Assembly committee, you won't be able to utilize the Grassroots Action Center at this time for this particular campaign, but stay tuned for more action alerts to come.
3. Organize a visit to your legislators' district office.

Below are steps to help you secure a meeting with your legislator and tools to ensure your meeting is successful:

How to schedule a meeting at your legislator's district office

- To find your legislator, visit our [Grassroots Action Center](#). Type in your zip code and address to find your legislators. Once you click on your Assemblymember you will see their district office information.
- Once you have their district office phone number, you are ready to call and request a meeting. When you call, say your name and let them know that you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss your support of SB 491 (Hernandez). Here is an example: "Hello, my name is Stephanie and I live in Assemblymember Dickinson's district. I am a nurse practitioner and would like to meet to discuss my strong support of SB 491 by Senator Hernandez."
- Meeting with staff is just as effective as meeting with the legislator, so if you are offered a meeting with staff, accept it.
- When you call, have a few dates and times available to share with the office.
- If possible, ask for the name of the person who will be meeting with you.
- If the office says they will call you back to schedule the meeting, make sure to follow up with them within two days. To do that, call the office and say that you are following up on a meeting request. Again, state your name, that you are a constituent and that you are following up on a meeting request made two days ago.
- Once you have a meeting date, coordinate with co-workers or friends who could attend the meeting with you. Once you have a team assembled, please email canpgrassroots@gmail.com so CANP can keep track of meetings and who is attending.



What materials should you use for your visit?

- Put the following documents into a folder to be left behind at the meeting:
 - [Fact Sheet – What is an NP?](#)
 - [SB 491 Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Fact Sheet – Major Newspapers Agree](#)
 - A business card or contact information with your name, phone number and email, for the office to contact you in the future.
- Here are some [tips on how to talk to your legislator](#).

What to do during a district visit

- 15 minutes prior to your visit, meet with the rest of your meeting team. During this time identify:
 - A team leader – this person will introduce the team to the legislator / staff person and allow each person to identify themselves and where they are from, briefly explain what an NP is and make “the ask” at the end of the meeting.
 - Someone to speak to the merits of the bill and why it is needed – refer to the fact sheet for specifics.
 - Someone who will invite the member / staff person to visit their facility.
 - Someone to send a thank you note and send the [CANP Legislative Meeting Debrief Form](#) to CANP grassroots at canpgrassroots@gmail.com.

Depending on the size of your group, you may need to create more roles or you may have to do them all yourself.

- Everyone should provide examples of why this bill is necessary and how it will impact you and your facility, your patients, your community, etc.
- Quickly show them the supporting documents in the folder and make sure to point out your business card or contact information. Let them know that you would like to be a resource for the office and to please contact you with any questions. This is an excellent way to create a relationship with the office.
- If you are asked questions that you are unsure of how to answer, be sure to capture those questions and follow up with the office once you have the correct answers.
- The team leader needs to make “the ask.” “Can we count on you (or the Assemblymember’s) support of this bill when it comes before you?”

How to follow up after a lobby visit

- Immediately fill out and send the [CANP Legislative Meeting Debrief Form](#) to canpgrassroots@gmail.com. This information helps influence CANP’s lobby efforts.
- As soon as possible, send a thank you note to the member or staff person you met with. Make sure to include a business card or other contact information, including name, phone number and email address, in the note. Here is an example of a thank you note:
 - “Dear Shelby – thank you for taking the time to visit with us last Tuesday. We appreciated talking with you about our strong support of SB 491 (Hernandez). As we said during the meeting, this bill will have a tremendously positive impact on our community and our patients seeking vital health care services. Again, I would like to invite you to visit our facility in _____, and I would be happy to coordinate a visit with you whenever your schedule permits. If you would like to schedule a visit or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.”
- Stay in touch with the office. Creating and maintaining a relationship with your legislator is essential. You can do this by inviting your legislator to tour your health care facility, inviting your legislator to events or special occasions your facility is hosting, discussing with them the importance of CANP priority bills, etc.