ONS Health Policy Priorities

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- improving cancer symptom management and palliative care;
- advancing and ensuring access to quality cancer prevention and care;
- strengthening nursing workforce contributions to safeguard public health.

The Agenda

- Healthcare Reform’s History
- Highlights for Oncology and Nursing
- Professional, Patient, Practice Implications
- ONS Legislative Priorities
- Advocacy: Motivation and Mobilization

ACA Requirements

- Require (most) U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health insurance.
- Immediate access to coverage for uninsured with serious pre-existing conditions in high-risk pools.
- No lifetime limits for all plans; phase-out of annual limits by 2014.
- No rescissions except in the case of fraud or intentional misrepresentation.
- Coverage of preventive health services.
- Dependent coverage extended until age 26.
- Reduction in Medicare Part D RX coverage gap.
Nurse Education Opportunity

• Increases loan repayment benefits for each National Health Service Corps member to a maximum $50,000 per year.
• Expands the Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs to provide loan repayment for students who serve at least two years as a faculty member.
• Increases the Nurse Faculty Loan Program amounts to $35,000.
• Creates $638 million for Title VIII programs, from $178 million, through HRSA for nursing workforce.
• Recognizes nurse-managed care model as important to efficient, cost-effective primary health care.
• Establishes a Public Health Workforce Corps to address shortages.
• Provides funding for public health funding programs, diversity grants.
• Enhances grants for nursing students to practice in underserved areas.

ACA and Cancer Care

• No cost to prevention services such as cancer screenings (mammograms, colonoscopies); counseling on smoking cessation, weight loss, nutrition, depression.
• HHS convenes a pain conference, followed by a report on the findings that will establish priorities for basic and clinical research at NIH.
• Provides coverage for Voluntary Advance Care Planning consultation between Medicare enrollees and APNs to discuss care planning, advance directives, wills/powers of attorney.
• Directs the Secretary of HHS to establish a pilot program to reward NPs who make their offices a “medical home” for patients by being fully available to patients for coordinated and comprehensive care.
• Hold Harmless Clauses: stating that “nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a nurse practitioner from leading a patient centered medical home.”

Hurdles & Challenges

• Costs
• Loopholes
• Politics
• Public Opinion
• Doctors, lawyers, and insurance companies
• Elected Officials
• Patient losses

• Timelines
• Exemptions
• Extensions
• Finger pointing, name calling, back stabbing
• Interpretation
• Implementation
• Legacy Issues

Outside Support

IOM’s four key messages:

• Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
• Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
• Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
• Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.
Coalitions

- American Nurses Association (ANA)
- Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CFTFK)
- Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC)
- National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
- National Coalition for Cancer Survivors (NCCS)
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)
- National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF)
- Nursing Community (NC)
- One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC)
- Pain Care Forum

ONS Member Leadership

- Grassroots Advocacy
- Grass Tops Influence
- Expertise
- Personal Stories
- Constant Contact
- Using Tools In Your Arsenal
- Trusted Advisor
- Calling Not A Career
- One Person Can Make A Difference

References

- US Senate, [www.senate.com](http://www.senate.com)
- [http://www.ons.org/LAC](http://www.ons.org/LAC)
- ANA, [http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/Policy-Advocacy](http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/Policy-Advocacy)

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