

Nursing Advocacy and How a Healthcare Bill Becomes Law

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In the modern era, nurses have made a vital contribution to policies and strategy formulations at health care units, and at a broader level, they actively participate in politics to pass bills and laws. Nurses are well aware of the modern world health care system, and they realise that it is in trouble and requires a set of reforms. Changes in the processes, SOPs, and policies develop foundations for laws and regulations in order to efficiently govern the health care system at a broader level. A successful advocacy policy depends on power and authority.

Moreover, its success is influenced by time, energy, as well as the diplomatic skills of the nurse's representatives to raise their issues in its legislative arena. Healthcare bills are comprised of a set of actions or inactions undertaken by healthcare organizations or the government to achieve the desired results (Starkweather et al., 2018). The health care system is composed of the public sector, private sector, and political forces. These forces have influenced the laws and regulations and shaped the health care system. A bill becomes a law and then regulation. We form a certain position regarding a certain cause and then turn our interest into bills, which become laws and regulations. There are certain steps taken to pass a bill and then transform it into law and regulation.

Nursing is one of the largest professions in the world; there are more than four million nurses who provide services in different healthcare centres in the USA alone. Nurses have the potential to influence politics and policies on a global scale (Breda et al., 2018). The involvement of nurses in politics is purely for the betterment and improvement of healthcare services. As the bills and laws are concerned, nurses can get involved in politics by joining professional nursing organizations. In the United States of America, it is not easy to pass a bill; the legislative process is very long, complex, and frustrating. During the process of passing a bill, there are many times and places where one believes that the bill can die. According to the facts and figures, only a few bills survive to become law. The president of the State plays a vital role in the legislative process. When the bill is passed by both the House and Senate, it is then forwarded to the president to be signed and approved. After the signature of the president, the bills become law.

Drafting A Bill

First of all, the problem is recognized by the representatives of the House and Senate then the formal legislative is processed when the bill is introduced. A problem must be recognized for the proposed solutions. Among these solutions, the best one is chosen in the American political process. The difficulty lies in the process of choosing the best option among numerous proposed solutions. Drafting a bill before the members, the relevant experts review it, and the congressional legal staff helps them

to make a proper draft of the bill.

Building Support For The Bill

After the successful drafting of the bill, the members must successfully compete for public attention and legislation. To build support from members and the public to get the momentum for the bill, members of parliament introduce the bill to the public through press conferences and get support from the public.

Congressional Committee

Once the bill is introduced to the public, it is put forward to the congressional committee for further action and consideration. The bill is then scheduled for a timely public hearing and a vote. If the committee has some objections and votes to keep the bill, the bill is not sent for further consideration, and the bill is dead.

The Conference Committee

When the bill is passed by both houses and both parties, the bill is then referred to the committee temporarily formed by the members of both parties. Then it is forwarded to the president to sign it. If the president refuses it, Congress has the right to veto the bill if the two-thirds majority in both houses agree and vote to do so.

In health policies in the USA, the federal government, states, and local governments are the stakeholders who influence policy development and regulate the procedures of the health care system. Issues linked with health policy are started with individual health and summed up with the public health issues of the country. The issue of involvement of government in policies, and laws in the health sector is debatable; the concerns are regarding the level of government involvement. In other countries, health is considered a basic right of the citizens, and thus, they expect that their governments will play an essential role in developing concrete healthcare policies for their citizens. While the scenario in the USA is different, health is seldom considered as the right of the citizens. There are certain programs in the country which facilitate people regarding health issues, for instance, Medicare and Medicaid; however, mostly the health care system is controlled by the private sector. The nursing profession is based on human health and the science of caring for patients. They can influence the practice standards and procedures to ensure the best quality care. Policies also have an impact on allocating resources to provide the best healthcare services. There are many nursing organizations which are actively participating in policy formulation. For instance, de Cordova et al. (2019) argued that the American Association of Colleges of Nursing emphasizes the role of nursing in making policies, along with the National League for Nursing, to address the policies as part of their professional role. Today, nurses are making an important contribution to decision-making and

the development of policies, bills, and laws to provide services effectively.

References

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