



## *Introduction*

The International Society of Plastic and Aesthetic Nurses supports the participation of plastic and aesthetic nurses in the formation of political policies. The United States' healthcare delivery system is complicated by the many regulations and laws that dictate how providers practice, how healthcare is financed, and the range of the healthcare industry (Loversidge, 2016). The need for nurses to become involved in health policy is very powerful because their healthcare expertise will combine with their knowledge of healthcare systems and societal conditions to allow for the creation of health policy that will improve the quality of life for all (Milstead, 2016b). Multiple opportunities exist for plastic and aesthetic nurses to become involved in the legislative process (Milstead, 2016a). Public policy plays a role in patient outcomes, and the opportunity to contribute to and shape the future of health care is available to all plastic and aesthetic nurses.

## *Rationale*

Promoting political activism among plastic and aesthetic nurses is consistent with the mission of the International Society of Plastic and Aesthetic Nurses. As plastic and aesthetic nurses, we are in the position to extend our scope of influence beyond direct patient care. Active participation in all levels of politics is strongly advocated by this organization. Nurses can participate in policy formation as politicians, by serving as liaisons between government officials and their constituents, and by offering the strength of numbers in policy formation. Future patient outcomes depend on the development of effective policies created with input from nurses (Polk, 2016).

## *International Society of Plastic and Aesthetic Nurses Recommendations*

- The plastic and aesthetic nurse should promote the incorporation of health policy into nursing education to enhance nurses' understanding of how to navigate the political system and identify where nurses can make the most significant impact in the policy development process (DeLeon, 2016).
- The plastic and aesthetic nurse should seek out opportunities to interact with elected officials, provide insight into patient concerns, and assist policymakers with understanding the complex issues associated with health care. "The education of nurses puts them in a position of discovering and acknowledging. . .health system problems that may demand intervention by public policymakers" (Milstead, 2016a, p. 7).

- Recognizing that nurses represent a large segment of the voting community (Milstead, 2016a), plastic and aesthetic nurses should utilize this status to enlighten and influence elected officials and advocate for policies and laws that benefit patients and improve the health care system.
- Knowing that nurses account for a significant portion of the healthcare provider population, plastic and aesthetic nurses should capitalize on the impact of their numbers within healthcare to “lead the movement of interprofessional practice, education, and research to the policy arena” (Milstead, 2016a, p. 15).
- The plastic and aesthetic nurse should collaborate with registered nurses from other specialties, including dermatology, pediatrics, and oncology, to promote positive patient outcomes through political advocacy (Polk, 2016).
- The plastic and aesthetic nurse should collaborate with other healthcare professionals to combine “any and all resources available. . .to bring about a sustained positive outcome for the patient” and the health care system (Polk, 2016, p.262).

## *References*

DeLeon, P. (2016). The transformative journey. In J. Milstead (Ed.), *Health policy and politics: A nurse’s guide* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Loversidge, J. (2016). Government regulation: Parallel and powerful. In J. Milstead (Ed.), *Health policy and politics: A nurse’s guide* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Milstead, J. (2016a). Advanced practice registered nurses and public policy, Naturally. In J. Milstead (Ed.), *Health policy and politics: A nurse’s guide* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett

Milstead, J. (2016b). Global connections. In J. Milstead (Ed.), *Health policy and politics: A nurse’s guide* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning

Polk, J. (2016). The evolving interprofessional universe. In J. Milstead (Ed.), *Health policy and politics: A nurse’s guide* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Drafted: May 12, 2017

Revised:

Approved by ISPAN Board of Directors: July 10, 2017