

RNFA Reimbursement – Legislative Preparation *and* Strategy

Advancing legislative initiatives can be both complex and rewarding. Before you begin your journey, please reach out to AORN Government Affairs staff at grassroots@aorn.org for assistance and guidance.

1. Assess your resources

- a. Review your connections with various individuals.
 - i. Do you have the support of your colleagues? Many RNFA and other voices will be needed to persuade legislators of the importance of RNFA reimbursement.
 - ii. Do you have a surgeon champion? Do you know a surgeon who can become your champion? Surgeon support can be key to convincing legislators of the need for RNFA reimbursement in your state.

2. Contact AORN Government Affairs for resources and support

- a. Educate yourself with AORN resources.
- b. AORN Government Affairs staff will work with you to assess the political arena.
 - i. Learn the legislative process in your state.
 - ii. Identify key legislators (insurance committee members, health policy champions, nurses, majority leaders, etc.)
 - iii. Where do your own legislators fit in?
 - iv. Identify potential bill sponsors.
 1. If potential sponsors are not your legislators, work with AORN Government Affairs to locate RNFA colleagues who are constituents of your identified potential sponsors.
- c. Develop sample bill language.
 - i. AORN Government Affairs has template bill language available and can work with you to tailor a proposal for your sponsor.
- d. Develop your talking points with AORN Government Affairs.

3. Work with AORN Government Affairs to create your portfolio

- a. RNFA talking points.
- b. AORN Position Statement on RN First Assistants.
- c. AORN Memo of Support for RNFAs.
- d. RNFA draft legislation.
- e. Information on current states with RNFA reimbursement language in law or regulation.
- f. IOM Future of Nursing Action Coalition letters re RNFA reimbursement.

4. Begin your grassroots work

- a. Visit your legislators to educate about the role of the RNFA (using your portfolio) and seek their support; at the same time, seek your legislator's expertise on political processes in your state.

- b. If not asking your legislator to be a sponsor, ask for co-sponsorship.
- c. Attend functions where your legislator is speaking and let them know you are supporting.
- d. Do you have contacts within and support of other organizations? Work with AORN Government Affairs to identify areas of opportunity for collaboration and support. Some possibilities include your state nurses association's government affairs staff and legislative committee, your state board of nursing, the IOM Future of Nursing Action Coalition in your state, and your AORN State Council and local chapters:
 - i. Join your state nurses association. Your state nurses association is more likely to respond to your request for collaboration and support if you are a member.
 - ii. Contact the state nurses association government affairs staff and legislative committee to educate them about the RNFA role and the importance of reimbursement.
 - iii. Develop a relationship with the Executive Director of your state board of nursing. Educate him or her about the RNFA role and the importance of reimbursement.
 - iv. Contact the IOM Future of Nursing Action coalition in your state for support. Ask for an opportunity to educate the group about the role of the RNFA, the importance of reimbursement, and how the lack of reimbursement serves as a barrier to practice. Ask for a document outlining support for RNFA reimbursement.
 - v. Contact your AORN State Council and local chapters. Seek out perioperative nurses who live in districts of key legislators; recruit these colleagues to work with you to gain legislative support for RNFA reimbursement.

5. Once you have a sponsor

- a. Work with AORN Government Affairs and your sponsor's office to finalize and file draft language.
- b. Consult with local RNFA colleagues on draft language to assure language is appropriate for your state.
- c. Recruit other RNFAs in your state to educate legislators and gain support.
- d. Maintain an ongoing relationship with AORN Government Affairs, your state legislative coordinator, state council, and local chapter leaders as your bill progresses.