

Public Policy Road Map

On the main [public policy page](#), you can “Get Involved” by communicating directly with your legislators and other decision-makers on public policy issues that are important to you. The [legislative map](#) allows you to select your state to access the most current laws and regulations related to perioperative nursing and surgical safety. You can find your State and Regional Legislative Coordinators, links to nursing organizations and nurse practice acts, and the latest developments on public policy initiatives in your state.

Before embarking on advocacy efforts, [lobbying tools](#) allows grassroots members to utilize AORN resources to become familiar with legislative basics such as how to read a bill, how a bill becomes law, glossary of legislative terms, and how the regulatory process works. In addition to the resources on legislative basics, AORN also has advocacy resources related to AORN’s advocacy priorities for [RN as Circulator](#) and supporting [Allied Health Care Professionals](#) legislation. All of these tools enable AORN grassroots members to become successful advocates.

Based on recommendation from the National Legislative Committee and the president elect of AORN, the AORN Board of Directors each year establishes [legislative priorities](#) that the Government Affairs Department will pursue in legislative or regulatory arenas. In 2009, these legislative priorities include RN as Circulator, Preserving and Protecting the Perioperative Registered Nurse’s Scope of Practice, Supporting Workplace Safety Initiatives, and Health Care Reform.

[Current laws](#) provides information on the issues identified in AORN’s legislative priorities that have been addressed by state and federal government. AORN maintains information on [RN as Circulator](#), [Preserving and Protecting the Perioperative Registered Nurse’s Scope of Practice](#), [Supporting Workplace Safety Initiatives](#), and [Health Care Reform](#). [Nursing priorities](#) include safe patient handling, eliminating mercury in healthcare setting, mandatory overtime, nursing education, nursing quality indicators, nurse staffing plans and ratios, nursing workforce data collection, title “nurse protection,” whistleblower protection, and workplace violence.

AORN Government Affairs coordinates grassroots activities in the promotion of AORN’s legislative priorities. One of the most effective methods for influencing public policy is direct communication between constituents and decision-makers. Through the [AORN Government Affairs website](#), members have access to their legislators and the tools they need to effectively communicate AORN’s position on legislative initiatives. Through this website, members can sign up to be included in the AORN grassroots network, get involved in current legislative initiatives, and find information regarding legislation in their states. [Sign up](#) to be a grassroots member. All grassroots receive free the monthly email AORN Advocacy Update – to keep you informed on all our advocacy activities.

On the [AORN Advocacy Leadership page](#) AORN's Government Affairs Department, in conjunction with the AORN [National Legislative Committee](#), works with [State Legislative Coordinators](#) to advance public policy initiatives through a robust grassroots network on behalf of AORN members at the state and federal levels. The Government Affairs Department provides grassroots members with advocacy tools, and [training](#). Additionally, Government Affairs helps to coordinate grassroots networks at the state level to promote the AORN legislative agenda.