

TO: AORN Grassroots Leaders

You already know that health care is a high priority for our President elect, Barack Obama. AORN is very involved in this national discussion in many ways including through our new affiliation with ANA, participation in a consensus process involving over 25 nursing organizations, and active involvement in [NQF's Priorities Partnership](#).

Now we need you to take action as an AORN grassroots leader. President elect Obama has set up a national effort over the next two weeks that you can directly participate in. It involves you pulling together a small group to discuss health care issues and reporting on your meeting back to the Obama team. Specific instructions for your participation follow.

Read about it and sign up at this [Obama website](#).

In the “describe your event” box, try to give information about who you will invite. For example, I’m going to meet with the soccer parents for my son’s team (it is better to try to get out of the work environment, but not essential). My group will include policeman, doctor, nurse, truck driver, businessperson, etc.

In the “what are the major areas you want to discuss” box, identify nurse issues. For example, why the nurse shortage hurts quality efforts (staffing levels, mandatory overtime, next generation recruitment, etc); the importance of implementing the Priority Partnership recommendations (see attached); the importance of having registered nurses involved at decision level discussions within Congress, CMS, etc. You can reference AORN as an important resource to you and for the President elect’s team, but they are looking for “citizen” feedback not for you to speak on behalf of AORN.

In the report of your meeting that you will email to the Obama organizers, you want to reinforce the discussion areas for your group with “action words” such as: increase appropriations for nurse education; reward providers that utilize RN as Circulator and RNFA in a value based payment system; utilize AORN data to understand and measure value.

Whatever report you send through the Obama web based system, keep a copy of it and email it to both of your US Senators and to your US Representative using [AORN advocacy](#). A simple cover note saying 1) here is what we submitted to President elect Obama, 2) that you are interested in participating in any advisory groups the Congressional representative convenes, and 3) referencing your involvement in AORN which has additional resources to support health change at [AORN](#).

Thanks for your interest in providing input to the Obama transition team. Drop us a note with any results of your communications with Obama transition or your elected officials.

Best, Craig Jeffries
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