

Dear AORN Grassroots Leaders,

We have a new opportunity for you to educate your state and federal legislators and to help the public understand the role of the perioperative registered nurse and our singular focus on the patient. Recently AORN participated in the development of health care reform recommendations with a wide range of interested parties. The focus of that effort - Stand for Quality is - quality! Please use the model letter below to email to the biggest circulation newspaper in your area. This effort is to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper using the model letter below. After you enter your zip code you will need to select your newspaper from the many "media" choices available, enter your name and credentials at the bottom, fill in the information in the right column and then simply click on "send message" and your email letter to the editor will go to the paper you select. After that you need to read the "letters to the editor" over the next two weeks to see if you get "published." Send a copy or email a link of your published letter to AORN Government Affairs so we can utilize it in our advocacy efforts. And thank you again for your role as an AORN grassroots leader - this effort really does help.

Model Letter Below:

Letter to the Editor

As our elected officials continue to discuss health care reform, I encourage everyone to stand up for quality as a critical area for improvement. Perioperative registered nurses see the need for continued quality improvement initiatives while working every day in the operating rooms of local hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

Our national association, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (www.aorn.org) continues to lead patient safety efforts related to surgical procedures as it has since its founding in the 1960s. We are the pioneers that developed and promoted the value of the Perioperative Nursing Data Set (PNDS), a standardized language for documentation and evaluation of the care provided in the operating rooms of our nation's hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

Our Association has now embarked on a new phase of development to create a standardized perioperative framework (SPF) that will be integrated into healthcare information systems. This standardized, evidence-based data derived from standardized documentation is a cornerstone of public policy initiatives to measure quality and will support transition to a quality driven health care system.

As you consider health care reform and how it will impact you, I encourage you to consider the important role of evidenced based data such as what perioperative registered nurses are developing to improve quality of care in the operating room.