OBTAINING A PROCLAMATION OR RESOLUTION FOR PERIOPERATIVE NURSE WEEK

There are three ways to obtain a proclamation designating a day or week for specific observance. The first is to ask the governor's office to issue a proclamation. The second is to ask the mayor’s office to issue a proclamation. The third is to ask a state legislator to sponsor a resolution in the legislature.

Anyone can ask their elected officials for a proclamation. Make sure to speak with your chapter leaders, state council president and state legislative coordinator to coordinate your efforts.

**Asking the Mayor or Governor’s Office**

- July, August and September are ideal months to ask for a proclamation recognizing Perioperative Nurse Week.
- Contact your Governor's office or mayor to learn more about the proclamation process.
- Follow their procedures and send in a request for a proclamation with a draft proclamation. Email grassroots@aorn.org to update your request for proclamation with a current number of members in your state.
- If you call your mayor or governor’s office, ask for the person who handles proclamations.

**Asking a State Legislator**

- Check to make sure your state is still in session.
- Contact one state representative and one state senator who are most likely to sponsor a resolution. These legislators may be doctors or nurses. Additionally, they may demonstrate an interest in nursing issues and be members of the House or Senate Health Committees. Keep in mind that legislators are more likely to respond to local constituents.
- Send the legislator a request for a resolution with a draft resolution.
- Find out how you can help your sponsor ensure passage of the resolution. This will require you to lobby. You may need to get other legislators to co-sponsor the resolution. Start by emailing your legislators about the resolution and soliciting their support. Follow up by calling your sponsor and other legislators to remind them of the importance of this issue to nurses. AORN Government Affairs is here to help guide you through this process.

**Opportunities for Local Media**

- A proclamation signing ceremony can be a great news event! Find out whether there will be an official signing ceremony and when it will be held. Once you receive the information, AORN Government Affairs can help invite local media to attend. Please contact Government Affairs once you receive a signing date.
- Ask your nursing colleagues to join you at the signing ceremony.
- Take pictures at the ceremony and send the pictures to grassroots@aorn.org.

**After you Obtain the Proclamation or Resolution**

- Send a copy of the proclamation to grassroots@aorn.org so that Government Affairs can post it on the website.
- Show appreciation to your governor, sponsor or mayor and to everyone who supported the proclamation/resolution.