

Passing legislation is often a multi-year effort and will require many individual advocates along with key stakeholder support through the process. AORN is here to help.

Here are steps you can take now, and additional work you will want to do alongside your AORN Government Affairs team.

GET STARTED NOW

Surgical Smoke Evacuation Legislation Action Items

- ✓ **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS:** Join your State Nurses Association and seek to educate its legislative or government affairs committee about the hazards of surgical smoke. Your state nurses association is THE voice of nursing in your state capitol.
- ✓ Talk to fellow AORN members in your state to gauge interest and commitment.
Questions to ask:
 - » Does your facility consistently evacuate smoke? If not, why not?
 - » Does your facility already have the equipment to evacuate smoke? If not, why not?
 - » Do you have a personal story to share with legislators about health effects from exposure to surgical smoke?
 - » Are you willing and able to testify in front of a committee at your state Capitol?
- ✓ Educate your surgical team members – surgeons, anesthesia providers, surgical technologists, and other surgical team members – about the hazards of surgical smoke. Identify colleagues willing to support legislation with testimony or written letters and collect their stories about exposure to surgical smoke.
- ✓ Tell your medical device representatives that you are interested in advancing surgical smoke evacuation legislation. Like you, they also may want this type of legislation passed to protect their own health and safety in the OR. Encourage them to reach out to the AORN Government Affairs Department by sending an e-mail to jpennock@aorn.org to learn how they can support these efforts.
- ✓ Identify large health systems who are consistently smoke free with C-suite support for advancing surgical smoke evacuation legislation. AORN Go Clear Award™ recipients are ideal supporters.
- ✓ Use the resources provided by AORN Government Affairs as you educate surgical teams and stakeholders on the importance of eliminating surgical smoke from your operating rooms. Go to <https://www.aorn.org/government-affairs/policy-agenda/surgical-smoke-free-or>.

You don't have to wait for your state to go smoke free!
Use the AORN Go Clear Award™ Program to ensure a smoke-free environment in your facility.

AORN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

While you get to work on your action items, AORN Government Affairs will:

- ☒ Research and evaluate whether there are competing nursing priorities in your state; seek input on timing and support from the nurses' association.
- ☒ Consider early discussions with the state agency responsible for licensing hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.
- ☒ Research elected Senate and House Health Committee legislators to find those with healthcare backgrounds and those most likely to champion legislation; begin targeted discussions with legislators.
- ☒ Make an outreach plan to build a coalition of supporters.
- ☒ Consider meeting with the state hospital association to educate on the hazards of surgical smoke and learn its likely position on any legislative initiatives; identify perioperative nurses who are connected to your state organization of nurse executives.
- ☒ Identify potential opponents of any bill and prepare to address stakeholder concerns with tailored bill language.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS THAT WORK

- Commission an operating room air quality study by an industrial hygienist and share it with your hospital CEO, HR, and risk management.
- Invite a legislator to a Chapter or State Council meeting to discuss his/her legislative priorities and educate him/her about the dangers of surgical smoke. Provide a surgical smoke demonstration if possible.

Jennifer Pennock | Senior Manager, AORN Government Affairs
jpennock@aorn.org | (303) 368-6271

www.aorn.org/government-affairs/policy-agenda/surgical-smoke-free-or