

Decisions are made by the people who show up.



South Dakota Nurses Association

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Decisions impact you.

Policymakers at all levels make decisions every day that impact you, your profession, your children, your friends and neighbors, your community and our state.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- 1. Idea – A bill starts as a simple idea**
- 2. Drafting - LRC**
- 3. Signatures - Legislators**
- 4. Introduction – House or Senate**
- 5. Committee Action – Do Pass, Table, 41st Day**
- 6. House or Senate Action**
- 7. Governor**
 - 1. Signs Bill**
 - 2. Vetoes Bill**

Policymakers are not experts.

The people we elect cannot be experts in every area.

They rely on lobbyists, professionals in subject matter areas and constituents to help them with issues they must decide.

Term limits and natural vacancies, create an average 33% turnover every two years.

Policymakers are not experts.

At the federal level, policymakers have staff to research and brief on complicated issues.

But, at the state level, there is not full-time staff to support state legislators.

Policymakers are not experts.

South Dakota's legislators consider 400+ bills a Session on a wide variety of topics, over 35-40 days.

Legislators may hear committee testimony on a bill one morning, and vote on the bill the next afternoon. There is not a great deal of time to research issues in depth.

Policymakers need your help.

South Dakota's legislators rely on content experts to help them decide issues.

You are experts on health care. You have expertise in how laws and policies impact your ability to care for your patients.

***You are the best lobbyist for
your profession.***

There is nothing more persuasive to a legislator than the personal commitment of a constituent – your expertise, your professional stories and your reasons for being an advocate are powerful tools.

Elected officials respond to the people who can elect or un-elect them.

To be effective, you need to be ready.

Grassroots outreach can make the difference on an issue.

You need to be ready to act when asked.

You need to know your issue before it becomes an issue.

To be effective, you need to be ready.

An association needs to have the infrastructure to train your membership on issues.

An association needs to be able to activate its membership to make calls, e-mails and contacts.

Your membership is critical!

Does your association have the tools in place?

It is critical that a membership association have up to date membership information and “go to” advocates.

It is critical that an association regularly communicate with its membership on policy issues.

Build the relationship before the issue is an issue.

An association and its members need to have regular communications with legislators to develop a relationship.

- in-district meetings**
 - legislative days**
 - day to day connections with legislators**
 - provide reliable and credible information**
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You have the voice. Will it be heard?

When your association asks you to engage on an issue, it is important that you engage.

Your expertise and examples helps the legislator make a decision.

Your silence signals an issue is not that important to you, despite the work of the association.

What you can expect of SDNA

SDNA is the only organization dedicated to representing your profession on policy issues at the state level.

SDNA will provide you with information on issues that impact your work.

- information before session**
 - information during session**
 - alerts on priority legislation**
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What can SDNA expect of you?

SDNA members need to:

- be engaged
- build relationships at local levels
- stay informed
- act when asked

SDNA is the only as strong as its membership makes it.

Your voice matters.

You need to be engaged so SDNA can be engaged and effective.

The goal is to make SDNA the first place legislators go for information on a policy issue.

Your voice matters.

There is another view, adverse to yours, that is working hard to have their voice heard.

If you are not prepared and engaged, they will prevail, possibly at your expense.

Your voice matters.

**Decisions are made by the people who
show up.**

**Make a difference in your profession.
Show up!**

Legislative Research Council

- The LRC website has a lot of great information on the legislative process, bills, hearings, etc.
- Check it out:
 - <http://legis.sd.gov>

**Thank you Government
Relations Committee!**