

The American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) National Summit 2007

Representative: Carol Green, APRN

In February I had the opportunity to attend the American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) 2007 National Summit representing the Vermont Nurse Practitioner association in Washington D. C. The objective of this meeting was to analyze the impact of current public policies on practice and to develop strategies to effect positive policy change. After receiving coaching from Public Policy consultants I met with the staffers of all 3 legislators to discuss current bills and issues related to health care and NP practice and to ask for their support.

This year on the Senate side we asked for the following:

- 1) Supporting a \$200 million allocation in Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for nursing workforce Development Programs, including \$76 million for Advanced Education Nursing Programs in Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. (The President's budget cut \$44 million from the Nursing Workforce development Programs.)
- 2) Support Patients' full access to nurse practitioners by ensuring that third party payment for care provided by nurse practitioners is integrated into Medicaid. Cosponsor S. 59: The medicaid Advanced Practice Nurse and physician Assistants access act of 2007, and S. 54: The Nursing School Clinics Act of 2007.

Senator Sanders sits on the Senate Health Education and Pensions Committee which authorizes, creates and renews health programs as well as the Senate Budget Committee which determines overall cumulative funding level for health programs.

On the House side we urged Representatives to support nurse practitioners in 2007 by: Supporting a \$200 million allocation in Fiscal Year 2008 for Nursing Workforce Development Programs, including \$76 million for Advanced Education Nursing Programs in Title VIII of the Public Health service act.

I also asked Representative Welch to sign on to the Nursing Caucus chaired by Lois Capp RN from Maine. He has already replied that he will do this.

Although I didn't see any of the legislators personally the staffers were very receptive and had plenty of time to meet since this was recess. I found the visits to be a particularly good experience this year and hope that more of us can go next year.