

2/20/18

GA Chair Report, Sandra Ruesch

SD ENA

Nurses Day at the Legislature, Pierre, SD, Feb. 5 & 6, & HB 1126

Four members of SD ENA attended Nurses Day at the Legislature on Feb 5 & 6. Karla Nygren, Kip Littau, Mary Brown, and Sandra Ruesch traveled to Pierre to represent our organization. The event started with Sandra testifying before the House of Representative's Judiciary Committee on HB 1126. HB 1126 was initiated by our SD ENA Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. HB 1126 further defines a medical forensic examination. South Dakota Codified Law 22-22-26 contains this information, but the current law is very vague. HB 1126 also adds language to meet the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, and supports those sexual assault victims that seek medical care but do not wish to participate with the criminal justice system. The bill was passed unanimously through the House judiciary committee. A few days later, the bill passed on the House of Representative's floor. The bill has been read on the Senate side and has been assigned to the Senate judiciary committee. We are awaiting scheduling of the bill to be up in committee.

Our SD ENA group then traveled to the host hotel for an education session. Governor Dennis Daugaard spoke to those in attendance. The Governor spoke about Medicaid and IHS issues. He also spoke about the need for health care providers in rural areas, asking nursing students to consider careers close to their homes. The next speakers were from the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services. They provided health statistics about our state, and they also discussed opportunities for health career students. We then traveled to the state capital to watch action in both the house and senate floor. The evening concluded with a chili supper where our SD ENA members were able to speak directly to members of Congress about issues that are important to emergency nurses such as workplace violence, telehealth technology, injury prevention, and trauma care. The chili supper is always a favorite amongst attendees due to the personal connections and conversations that take place with members of our state congress. The next morning we attended committee sessions. The group attended a discussion about HB 1250, which was seeking to increase the age to buy tobacco to be 21. There were a number of proponent and opponent testimony. The bill passed that morning with 8 yeas and 4 nays. However, on 2/14 the bill was voted down on the House floor with 21 yeas and 45 nays. The group was able to take a photo with Governor Daugaard and the ENA lantern.



To view state bills and follow through the legislative process, please visit this website: <http://sdlegislature.gov/>. The 2018 Legislative sessions takes place from now until March 6<sup>th</sup>. SD ENA has enjoyed collaborating with SDNA for this event for a number of years. To learn more about possibly attending next year, see the SDNA website: <http://www.sdnursesassociation.org/Main-Menu/News-Events/Nurses-Day-At-The-Legislature>

#### Day on the Hill- Washington DC, May 8 & 9

National ENA has reserved three seats for South Dakota at the Day on the Hill event. We posted a scholarship application on our website, and we had a number of members interested in this opportunity. The SD Board of Directors along with our National Board Liason, Gordon Gillespie, and Advocacy Board Liason, Pat Clutter, reviewed the blinded applications. The following individuals have been chosen to represent SD ENA at Day on the Hill.

- Michael Quinlivan
- Kip Littau
- Kara Fonken

Congratulations to these members! Karla Nygren will also be attending Day on the Hill as a member of the ENA Board of Directors. I know they will all do an excellent job representing our state.

<https://www.ena.org/event/2018/05/08/day-on-the-hill/day-on-the-hill>

#### EN 411 & Action Alerts

To keep in-the-know with legislative advocacy events, please join EN 411 Action Network <http://en411.ena.org/app/register?1&m=8977>. EN 411 will email you when it is time to take action on a national bill. This is an easy way to be a political advocate. Writing a letter to our member of congress literally takes seconds. ENA cues up the letter, you just need to sign your name. By imputing your home address, the letters are sent on your behalf to the appropriate members of congress. These action alerts are often posted to our Facebook page, so be on the look-out for these posts. It really is great when members of congress or their staffers contact you in regards to your message. The replies are usually phone calls or emails. In DC, they really are listening to the concerns of Emergency Nurses!