**Title:** Legislative Strategies: Momentum to Drive "Audacious" Policy Change

**Purpose:** To inform and educate the relevance and significance of legislative strategy in creating health policy change in nursing practice.

**Objective 1:** Discuss the basis for legislative decision making and the political process

**Objective 2:** Address key issues driving audacious policy change

**Objective 3:** Identify legislative strategies used to influence health policy

**Abstract:**

Legislative strategies serve as a cornerstone to guide our actions and create momentum to drive audacious policy change; to inform policy; to recommend changes in licensure and regulation; and to raise awareness to problems that have a sustained focus on nursing issues that impact the quality and delivery of health care. We need to ask ourselves what do nurses want and how aggressively, but realistically we want to pursue policy initiatives to impact change and enact meaningful health care reform?

Legislative strategies allow us to provide important information to the rules of the game and their motivations; to enhance bargaining power within Congressional leadership, special interest groups, our consumer base and stakeholder groups to influence policy decisions. Lobbying tactics and techniques utilized among nursing leaders can provide a link to health policy on high salient issues; to publicize benefits; and to demonstrate support against powerful vested interests. They are critical to the overall planning before launching a campaign for change. Creating a sound legislative strategy spells out formal way of figuring out where we want to go and how we are going to get there and is important in developing relationships and skills necessary to guide clients in creating lobbying strategies to achieve effective results.

Strategies serve as broad categories of activities that can be used to achieve an advocacy objective which apply various tactics, action steps or techniques used to implement a strategy to deliver a solution. This session is designed to help nurse advocates understand and address practical strategies to overcome specific barriers to advanced nursing practice and drive effective policy change to advance the nursing profession within the health care system using evidence-based research.

**Objectives:**

1. Describe the current political landscape and its impact on health policy development
2. Discuss the basis for legislative decision making and the political process
3. Address key issues driving audacious policy change
4. Identify legislative strategies used to influence health policy
5. Describe the role of nursing in political advocacy
6. Discuss strategies to engage key stakeholders and influence policy decisions

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Question 1: What four areas can be described as the foundational basis for legislative decision-making impacting health professions scope of practice?

Question 2: What is the purpose for using strategies to guide legislative and regulatory decision-making regarding scope of practice changes within health care?
**Question 3:** How can nursing’s involvement in political advocacy influence legislative and regulatory change?

**Question 4:** What are some lobbying tactics and techniques used to drive policy reform?

**Question 5:** How can the application and utilization of evidenced-based research in health care policy and practice influence decision-makers to enact policies which support advancing the nursing profession?