

## **To Be or Not To Be: Do You Choose Advocacy?**

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**Abstract Background Information:** As a PeriAnesthesia nurse, the goal is to provide patient care before and after surgery. During this critical time, the Perianesthesia nurse must advocate for the patient's safety and well-being. Perianesthesia nurse advocacy delves deep into the promotion of a safe patient and work environment. Therefore, advocacy starts when a nurse speaks out on behalf of the patient or for their colleagues when concerns are evident. The journey towards advocacy begins at the grassroots levels in caring for patients, including the mind, body, and soul, which is at the core value of nurses. To promote advocacy at the local, state, and regional levels, nurses must advocate to lend their voices and empower each other and the most vulnerable population, our patients.

**Objectives of Project:** The objective of this project is to highlight how oncologic Perianesthesia nurses advocate at the state level. Nurses who collaborate with professional nursing organizations have a political platform to engage with state representatives and can contribute to policymaking by advocating and supporting assembly bills that affect the Perianesthesia patient population. This advocacy is crucial for supporting vulnerable patient populations who require surgical intervention, including oncologic surgeries that can significantly impact their lives and families.

**Process of Implementation:** The process for implementation starts with advocating for patients at the state level. This process includes the journey to California's State capital of Sacramento with other like-minded nurses.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** A consortium of oncology nurses was developed to provide nurses with tools to reach out and schedule appointments with their legislative leaders. As constituents and nurses, collectively our voices speak for patient concerns. And as one united voice, we can make local, state, and regional changes.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The implication for advancing the practice of Perianesthesia nursing aligns with the standards of practice supported by the Perianesthesia nursing society. In which nurses have the tools to improve their clinical practice through patient advocacy. Successful integration of advocacy among Perianesthesia nurses can fortify knowledge and confidence in nursing advocacy by empowering nurses to become change agents through patient advocacy.