

2017 NIWI Report

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You could feel the enthusiasm in the conference room. There were nurses in attendance from many different specialties and many states.

There were nurses from Veterans affairs, healthcare for the homeless, inpatient and outpatient settings. Everyone seemed to have the same goal to improve patient care.

I learned nurses can be a powerful voice in D.C. The legislators are very receptive to nurses and trust their input. After listening to all of the speakers, I felt confident and prepared to meet with the legislative assistant for Niki Tsongas from Lowell, MA. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with the Federal government closing and my meeting cancelled. I reached out to the district director and met with her in the Lowell, Ma office and presented the 3 “asks”.

We learned about the 3 requests or “asks” that we were to review with our representatives. The first is for Title VIII Workforce Development Programs to ensure we have a continued pipeline of RN’s and APRN’s. I shared the average age of a PACU nurse and the need to recruit new qualified nurses. The second request is for Nursing Research. As a bedside PACU nurse, I use evidence based practice to improve patient care everyday. We need the funding to continue valuable Nursing Research. The third request was to ask the representative to join the Healthcare team in Congress.

In preparation for NIWI, I started receiving the newsletter from my representative. This is a great way to see what is happening in D.C.

I am going to use the knowledge that I gained at NIWI to stay involved in healthcare legislation. I appreciate ASPAN giving me the opportunity to attend NIWI.