



The influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals

2018 Legislative Update

NEBRASKA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
NANA October 2018
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Vice President, Advocacy



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2018 Legislative Session



- 60 days: Sine Die was April 18th
 - Of 474 bills, over 80 flagged as bills of interest to the NHA.
 - Of those 80+ bills of interest, the NHA testified at hearings or wrote letters of support of opposition to 32 of those bills.
 - 12 Legislative Interim Studies were identified as "of Interest" by our members.



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2018 Legislative Session's BIG ISSUES


- 60 day session
- \$173.3 (\$200) million gap between projected revenues and spending for the two-year budget period ending June 30, 2019.
- Budget Cuts, Corrections, Agriculture, K-12 Spending, Property Tax, Income Tax
- Six senators out due to term limits.
- Another 18 of the Legislature's 49 senators are up for re-election.



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NHA's Priorities 2018


- 2018 Priorities
 - Budget
 - Behavioral Health
 - Telehealth
 - Opioid Crisis
 - Economic and Workforce Development
 - Heritage Health



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Behavioral Health


- Nearly 1 in 5 Nebraskans have a mental illness.
- Patients with behavioral health disorders frequently access care through hospitals emergency department.
- Lack of access to psychiatric and mental health services in Nebraska and problem more prevalent in rural areas.
- 78/93 counties have no practicing psychiatrists and 31 counties lack behavioral health provider of any kind.
- Over half the state's practicing psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurse practitioners over the age of 50 and expected to grow over the next decade.



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Opioid Crisis

- The NHA is taking steps to actively address the opioid issue. One step we took was to convene a working group with numerous stakeholders. The group is charged with 3 tasks:
 - 1) Develop appropriate prescribing methods to reduce the risk of addiction/abuse;
 - 2) Develop policies to address those who are already addicted; and
 - 3) Develop appropriate and realistic expectations on the part of the public regarding opioid use.



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Workforce Development

- Substantial gaps in distribution of health professionals across Nebraska, especially in north central Nebraska, which has virtually no occupation therapists, speech language pathologists, or medical nutrition specialists.
- 13 counties do not have primary care physician and 18 counties do not have a pharmacist.
- Facilities experiencing shortage of lab technicians and nursing, as well as cafeteria workers and housekeeping.



Housing


- Rural workforce housing has long been urgent problem for Nebraskans.
- A new house built in Omaha for \$200,000 costs \$240,000 for same house built in Scottsbluff area.
- NHA continues to support initiatives that create affordable workforce housing in our communities.



2018 Legislative Session Prioritized Bills of Interest

Supported Legislation


- LB701 - Provide for telehealth practice by physicians and physician assistants (Passed)
- LB897 – Change medical providers’ duties under offense of failure to report injury or violence (Passed)
- LB913 - Change provisions relating to assault with a bodily fluid against a public safety officer (Prioritized) (Passed)



2018 Legislative Session Bills of Interest

Supported Legislation

- LB931 - Provide requirements for opiate prescriptions (Prioritized)(Passed)
- LB933 - Provide prescription requirements for certain controlled substances (Passed)
- LB934 - Require identification prior to receipt of dispensed opiates (Passed)
- LB994 - Create the Rural Broadband Study Task Force, change provisions relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund, and change powers and duties of the Public Service Commission as prescribed (Prioritized) (Passed)



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2018 Legislative Session Bills of Interest

OPPOSED Legislation

- LB368 would have removed a helmet requirement for riders older than 21 and prohibited children age 6 or younger from being passengers on motorcycles.
- The 30-15 vote (needed 33) killed the bill for the rest of the session. Senator Robert Hilkemann, a retired podiatrist from Omaha, led the opposition against the bill.
- LB829 - Adopt the Property Tax Relief Act. (Prioritized)



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Adopt the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

- As the demand for health care services increase, so does the demand for nurses.
- Our hospitals struggle at times attracting and retaining nurses to our facilities, especially in rural areas. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Projections 2014-2024, nursing is listed among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2024.
- The Bureau also projects the need for 650,000 replacement nurses in the workforce bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to over 1 million by 2024.*



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Adopt the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

- LB687 would allow Nebraska to enter the Interstate APRN Compact. This compact means that any APRN with a multistate license could travel to a member state of the compact and practice their trade there without having to test or get a separate license in that remote state.
- An APRN practicing in a party state must comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is located at the time the service is provided.
- LB687 would not expand the duties or allowances for the APRN but would make it easier for those who have gone through the rigorous training and licensing in order to become an APRN to get to work quicker if they are required to move, for reasons such as being the spouse of an active duty military member as long as the military family moves to a compact member state.



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Adopt the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact


- The Compact increases access to care. It eliminates redundant, duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary fees and also benefits military spouses with APRN licenses who often relocate every few years.
- The APRN Compact will remove the licensure barrier to telehealth practice for APRNs. The APRN Compact will allow APRNs bordering rural areas in neighboring states to more easily provide care for those patients.
- The future of health care calls on all health care professionals to work together as a team to meet the growing demand for health care services.



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MEDICAID EXPANSION


- Medicaid expansion would cover more than 90,000 Nebraskans living across the state. These are the folks in the "gap."
- Without access to adequate access to affordable health insurance, these Nebraskans are truly at risk. And, without coverage, their only option is typically visiting a hospital emergency room.
- Medicaid expansion would cover single people making up to \$16,753 a year or \$34,638 for a four-person household.



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MEDICAID EXPANSION


- Other states that have expanded Medicaid have seen an increase in access to health care, a boost to local economies, and an increase in jobs in their communities.
- If Nebraska does not expand Medicaid, it will be missing out on \$3.1 billion in federal funding between 2013 and 2022.
- Expanding Medicaid in Nebraska would bring in over \$1 billion of federal funding and create and sustain over 10,000 new jobs.



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MEDICAID EXPANSION


- Rural hospitals provide vital care to the almost 670,000 people who live in rural Nebraska. They are also an economic engine for the region, providing tax revenue for local governments and serving as the largest employer in many communities significantly contributing to workforce development.
- Every dollar spent by a rural hospital produces another \$2.29 of economic activity.
- Ensuring EVERYONE can get access to health insurance is vital to the health of our state. All Nebraskans deserve the chance to be healthy and have equal access to health insurance coverage.



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2018 ELECTIONS

- General Election: November 6
- 24 out of the 49 senators are up for election in 2018. 16 of the seated senators face re-election. There will be at least 8 new senators elected.
- Nearly 100 new senators have been elected since 2006
- Over 70% of the state Legislature had two years or less experience in 2017.




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NHA PAC

WHY DOES THE NHA NEED A PAC?

Additionally, support from the NHA PAC shows our current officeholders that we value their commitment to the state.

- Political landscape
- 31 Republicans
- 16 Democrats
- One Independent, One Libertarian




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NHA PAC

WHAT IS A PAC?

A Political Action Committee (PAC) is an organization whose purpose is to raise and distribute campaign funds to candidates seeking political office. The NHA PAC promotes the legislative and political interests of the NHA and provides members with another means to ensure that the needs of NHA membership are met.



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YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS.

Your contribution helps us stay competitive.


NHA PAC's major PAC competitors in Nebraska for the last election cycle:

\$499,453	NE State Education PAC
\$169,981	NE Realtors PAC
\$140,000	Associated General Contractors
\$115,500	NE Trial Attorneys
\$103,648	NE Chamber of Commerce
\$69,800	NE Bankers Association
\$51,628	NE Farm Bureau
\$26,125	NE Hospital Association

Invest in the NHA PAC today. Together, we can protect accessible and affordable health care for all Nebraskans.



Visit pac.nebraskahospitals.org. Username: nhapac Password: nhapac2018
 Questions? Contact David Slattery, director of advocacy, at 402.742.8153 or dslattery@nebraskahospitals.org.




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New Way to Contribute: Online!

pac.nebraskahospitals.org

Username: **nhapac**
Password: **nhapac2018**



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Advocacy
WHAT CAN YOU DO?


- Legislators make decisions based on their core beliefs, on their knowledge of an issue, on input from experts, on personal counsel, and on feedback from their constituents.
- Communicate with your lawmakers. Lawmakers and their staff want to hear from you because you are a constituent. You are an expert that represents an organization that is vital to the well-being of thousands of people in their district.



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Advocacy

- Personal visits and meetings
- Phone calls
- Letters and emails
- VOTE



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