



## Legislative Committee Report January 2, 2017

AORN cancelled the December National Legislative Forum call. If you want to listen to the recorded calls that are held the third Monday of each month, contact Danielle Glover via email at [dglover@aorn.org](mailto:dglover@aorn.org) and submit your contact information.

We encourage our membership to go online to our AORN government affairs web page and determine who your legislators are. ***Send them a card, note, or email and introduce yourself.*** We received a letter from 60 nursing organizations, including AORN, to the Transition Team, which explains who the Nursing community is and what we work toward each year. I have asked Nichole Meredith and Sue Cheatham to send a link out for this document to our membership.

Massachusetts Central Service Certification Moves Forward-read about the latest update on Central Service certification in Massachusetts at <http://www.aorn.org/about-aorn-newsroom/health-policy-news/2016-health-policy-news/ma-central-service-cert-moves-forward>

AORN's National Time Out Day initiative will take place sometime in June. More information will follow.

### **VNA Responds to Department of Veterans Affairs Final Rule on APRNs**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will amend its regulations to allow full practice authority to three roles of advanced practice nurses (APRNs) when they are acting with the scope of the VA employment. This new rulemaking increases veterans' access to VA healthcare by expanding the pool of qualified practitioners who are authorized to provide primary care and other related healthcare services.

The VNA will sponsor six scheduled Lobby days on Tuesdays and Thursday during the first half of the Legislative Session, between January 17 and Feb. 2, 2017. It's a day to advocate for nurses and the nursing profession! We will meet with legislators to talk about 2017 legislation and issues including full practice authority for AORNs and workplace violence. You'll also have the option to sit in on a healthcare committee meeting and observe the legislature in session. Don't worry, the VNA will have staff and experienced nurses to help lead the way, as well as prepared handouts. You don't have to be a VNA member to participate. The dates are: 1/17; 1/19; 1/24; 1/26/ 1/31 and 2/2 from 8am-12:00. Go online to the VNA website [www.virginianurses.com](http://www.virginianurses.com) to register for this exciting opportunity.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie P. Vencill, RN, CNOR