

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2019

Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama

**Dr. Joy Deupree, PhD, CRNP,  
WHNP-BC**

Senior Advisor for Policy

**Dr. Eileen Meyer, DNP, ACNP-  
BC**

VP for Policy

# PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

## PURPOSE

- ✓ A professional association represents a collection of professionals who work towards the common goal of improving the profession they are associated with.
- ✓ Organized and operated by its members for its members
- ✓ Allows for members to bond with their peers to form a competitive **advantage** as informed members of their industry.
- ✓ Busy members depend on their association to brief them on important industry trends and new legislative/regulatory rulings
- ✓ Dedicated to promoting the organization on regional, state, and national levels

## FUNCTION

- ✓ Networking Opportunities
- ✓ Information
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Educational Opportunities
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Mentoring
- ✓ Career and Leadership Development
- ✓ Intrinsic Value
- ✓ Jobs

# FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE POLICY

- ❑ Individuals and groups use numerous tactics to advance their interests and influence policy makers.
- ❑ Always consider the policy's political feasibility – whether a majority of others will support you or not
- ✓ Public opinion and priorities
- ✓ Economic conditions
- ✓ Interest groups
- ✓ NGO
- ✓ Business Associations
- ✓ Political Considerations
- ✓ Media
- ✓ Legislative Considerations

# FOLLOW THE MONEY

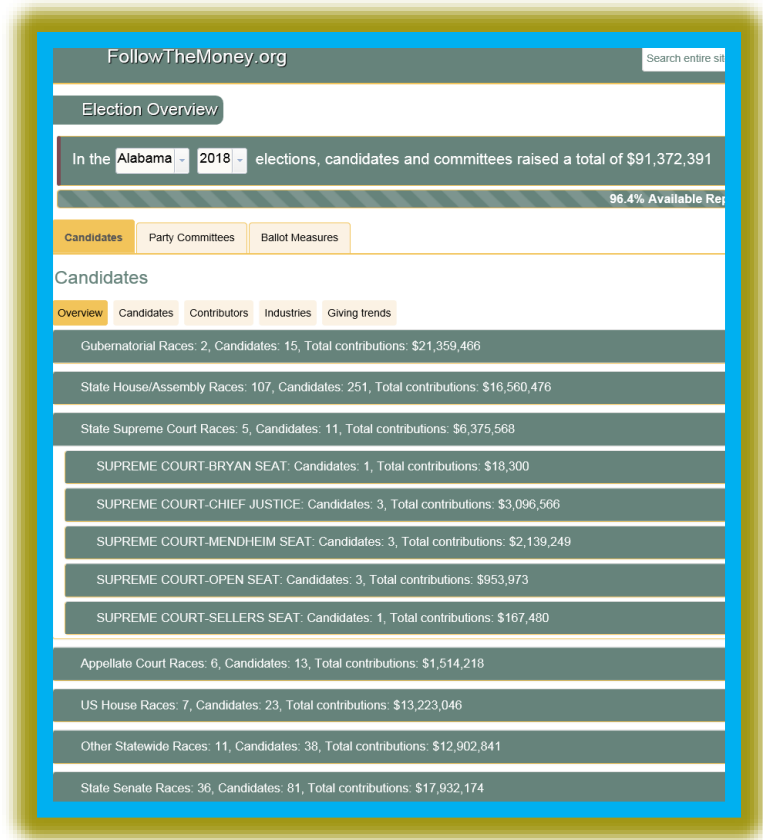
- ❖ Political Party
- ❖ Constituents
- ❖ The Administration
- ❖ Pressure Groups
- ❖ Colleagues and staff
- ❖ Personal beliefs



# FOLLOW THE MONEY

❑ PACs – Political Action Committees

❑ Followthemoney.org



# GET TO KNOW YOUR LEGISLATOR!



Senator Jim  
McClendon



Secretary of  
State John  
Merrill



US Congressman  
Gary Palmer



Senators  
McClendon and  
Dial



Senator Jabo  
Waggoner



Senator Del  
Marsh




Passage of HB  
429




Signing of  
Alabama Act  
2018-474

# GOALS

- ❑ The goal of advocacy efforts to is educate professionals and the public in order to meet the changing needs of the social and economic needs of the population.
  - ❑ A stronger, more powerful argument can be advanced to achieve an advocacy outcome when larger numbers unite in one voice
- 



# AANP 2019 HEALTH POLICY CONFERENCE – REMOVING BARRIERS TO PRACTICE IN THE MEDICARE SYSTEM

- ❑ Authorize NPs to certify patient eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid home health services
    - ✓ Members of Congress to cosponsor S.296 in the Senate
    - ✓ Introduce companion legislation in the House to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act
  
  - ❑ Authorize the assignment of NPs to Medicare Shared Saving Programs (MSSP) Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
    - ✓ Members of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 900
  
  - ❑ Authorize NPs to certify their patient's need for therapeutic shoes.
    - ✓ Members of Congress to cosponsor S. 237/ H.R. 808
- 





# AANP 2019 HEALTH POLICY CONFERENCE

## OTHER PRIORITIES

- Authorize NPs to certify Medicare patients for Hospice Care
- Authorize NPs to perform admitting examinations and all required patient assessments in Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Substance Use Disorder
- Amend Medicare CoP to require hospitals to include NPs for appointment to medical staffs and granting hospital privileges.
- Authorize NPs to order cardiopulmonary rehab services on Medicare patients
- Funding for nursing education programs



# 2019 AANP REGION 11 LEADERSHIP MEETING

- Retire the “incident to” billing
  - ✓ Confusion as to which provider performed certain aspects of the encounter
  - ✓ Quality based reimbursement
  
- Clarification on NP student charting
  
- Modernize state licensure laws
  
- NP signature recognition
  
- Reimbursement

# ALABAMA MEDICAID CHANGES

- ❑ Alabama Medicaid will expand billable procedures performed by NPs in April
  - ✓ Completing the CPT code list
  - ✓ If Medicaid reimburses a MD for a procedure, and it is within our SOP, then the NP will be reimbursed as well
  - ✓ Medicaid Provider Manual Appendix O
  
- ❑ Alabama Medicaid currently will not reimburse a CRNP who is employed and reimbursed by a facility that receives reimbursement from the Alabama Medicaid program
  - ✓ Medicaid recognizes that this type of reimbursement is **ONLY** in Alabama and is working to change this by late this year

# ALABAMA MEDICAID CHANGES (CONTINUED)

- Alabama Coordinated Health Network
  - ✓ Tentative start date – February 2019
  - ✓ Quality based focus driving reimbursement instead of panel size similar to BC/BS
  - ✓ Participation agreement
  - ✓ *RAPID CHANGE IN THE PAST YEAR AND EXPECT MORE*

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- ❑ Be aware of what you are asking permission for- to train
  - ✓ Procedures not listed in standard protocol may be in the SOP of a RN
  - ✓ Joint Committee will set the standard for training for specific procedures that will apply to all others and will be listed under the Specialty Protocol
    - Permission to train for DBS Programming and Interrogation
    - Protocols were developed and added to the Specialty Protocol in 2018
    - Now all NPs must ask permission to train and submit their training
  - ✓ When in doubt, please clarify!