



*****ACTION NEEDED*****

On Tuesday, January 20th, the Senate Professional Registration Committee, chaired by Sen. Jeanie Riddle, will likely meet for its first meeting of the 2021 legislative session. Although it has not been specifically noticed for hearing, there is a real possibility that SB 8 will be heard in Riddle's committee on Tuesday.

SB 8, filed by Chairwoman Riddle, is nearly identical to last year's SB 942, which as you may recall contained disastrous provisions that redefined surgery and prevented NPs with doctorate degrees from using the title. As a result, we are asking all APRN's to contact members of the Senate Professional Registration Committee and ASK THEM TO OPPOSE SB 8. Although it is unlikely that they will take a vote on the measure, they will likely be hearing testimony on the bill. AMNP and other nursing associations stand united in our resolve to defeat this measure, and we would like YOUR help.

Attached is a joint letter that has been sent to members of the Senate Professional Registration Committee. It outlines our concerns and sends a strong message that legislation like this is the last thing that they should be considering, especially during a global pandemic. Feel free to review this letter to help guide your thoughts, but we encourage you to form your own correspondence that details why you believe this is bad policy for Missouri. *The attached letter is a guide only.*

In addition to emailing your concerns to the committee, we STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO CALL THE OFFICES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS starting on Tuesday morning (January 19th). This is especially important if you are a constituent of one of the following senators:

SENATE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE		
SENATOR	PHONE	EMAIL
Sen. Jeanie Riddle	573-751-2757	jeanie.riddle@senate.mo.gov
Sen. Eric Burlison	573-751-1503	eric.burlison@senate.mo.gov
Sen. Doug Beck	573-751-0220	doug.beck@senate.mo.gov
Sen. Karla Eslinger	573-751-1882	karla.eslinger@senate.mo.gov
Sen. Mike Moon	573-751-1480	mike.moon@senate.mo.gov
Sen. Barbara Washington	573-751-3158	barbara.washington@senate.mo.gov
Sen. Paul Wieland	573-751-1492	paul.wieland@senate.mo.gov

***Please note that we are NOT asking you to contact all senators, but instead ONLY the senators on the Senate Professional Registration Committee listed above.

Passage of this bill could have significant consequences for Missouri NPs and your patients, so YOUR involvement is essential.

If you have questions or would like some additional guidance, please email us at nursepractitioners@missourinp.org

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes of your time. It is both necessary and appreciated.

In other news this week, the Capitol ran through the standard order of business for the second week of session, with one very significant difference in the House. On Monday, the bicentennial inauguration was held for statewide office holders including Gov. Mike Parson, Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, and Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick. The only statewide office holder not inaugurated was Auditor Nicole Galloway, who wasn't up for re-election in 2020 and will instead be on the ballot in 2022. This inauguration ceremony was markedly different from those before them, with the festivities scaled back significantly and the inaugural ball postponed until August. Nearly all of the inaugural activities were held outside the Capitol under clear but chilly weather that saw around 2,000 participate.

Despite the cold weather outside the Capitol, things heated up in the House this week as lawmakers considered punishment for Rep. Wiley Price (D-St. Louis) who allegedly exchanged inappropriate text messages with his intern and then threatened his legislative assistant for reporting the incident. A vote to completely expel Rep. Price ultimately failed, ending in his censure and several other penalties (including a \$22,500 fine and stripping him of his committee assignments). The measure cast a deep split mostly along party lines, with several Republican representatives joining their colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The rhetoric was inflammatory at times and the vote was the first time that a House member had been censured in Missouri history.

In other House activity, representatives did take up ordinary business typical for the second week of session. The chamber adopted the rules which will govern legislative activity for their side of the building with a few changes but no real procedural deviation from prior years. Notable changes include accommodating virtual testimony, re-establishing the Committee on Emerging Issues, and granting the House Sergeant At Arms police authority within the House side of the Capitol. The lower chamber also announced the committee assignments for the 2021 legislative session, with the following committee makeup for House Standing Committees of interest to Missouri's NPs:

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

HOUSE HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH POLICY		
TITLE	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Chair	Mike	Stephens
Vice Chair	Cyndi	Buchheit-Courtway
Ranking Member	LaDonna	Appelbaum
Representative	Kimberly-Ann	Collins
Representative	Bennie	Cook
Representative	Tricia	Derges
Representative	Kent	Haden
Representative	Michael	Johnson
Representative	Patty	Lewis
Representative	Michael	O'Donnell
Representative	Suzie	Pollock
Representative	Travis	Smith
Representative	Martha	Stevens
Representative	Lisa	Thomas
Representative	Wayne	Wallingford
Representative	Dale	Wright

HOUSE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION		
TITLE	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Chair	Jeff	Coleman
Vice Chair	Chris	Dinkins
Ranking Member	Richard	Brown
Representative	Bennie	Cook
Representative	Bishop	Davidson
Representative	Michael	Davis
Representative	Tricia	Derges
Representative	Jo	Doll
Representative	Ann	Kelley
Representative	Patty	Lewis
Representative	Alex	Riley
Representative	Lane	Roberts
Representative	Neil	Smith
Representative	Lisa	Thomas

It's too soon to tell how favorable these committees will be to pro-patient/NP-related legislation but we remain optimistic that both committees will hear testimony on bills that enable access to our skilled health care workforce that removes laws and regulations that stifle improved health care outcomes.

On the Senate side, the upper chamber also announced their standing committee assignments for 2021 this week. These assignments and a few committee hearings were the Senate's only significant activity for the week in addition to the referral of the first batch of bills by the Senate President Dave Schatz. Of specific note on the bill referral is that SB 8 noted above was referred to the Senate Professional Registration Committee and SB 41 (the APRN licensure bill) was referred to the Senate Health & Pensions Committee. **YOUR ACTION ON SB 8 AS NOTED ABOVE WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL!**

Senate committee assignments for bills relevant to Missouri NPs are as follows:

SENATE HEALTH & PENSIONS		
TITLE	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Chair	Bob	Onder
Vice Chair	Andrew	Koenig
Ranking Member	Jill	Schupp
Senator	Bill	Eigel
Senator	Holly	Rehder
Senator	Barbara	Washington
Senator	Bill	White

SENATE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION		
TITLE	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Chair	Jeanie	Riddle
Vice Chair	Eric	Burlison
Senator	Doug	Beck
Senator	Karla	Eslinger
Senator	Mike	Moon
Senator	Barbara	Washington
Senator	Paul	Weiland

On Thursday the House announced that they will NOT be in session the week of January 18th-21st, citing rising COVID cases among members and staff. The Senate however plans to resume business as usual with the exception of observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday.

In summary, the legislature is off to a slow but methodical start. AMNP STRONGLY ENCOURAGES YOU to contact members of the Senate Professional Registration Committee on Tuesday morning and will keep you apprised of any scheduled votes. If you wish to submit written testimony, or if you would like to testify in person, please contact us at nursepractitioners@missourinp.org