

## **Senate Bill 717 is not going to pass this session**

Barring some unforeseen political earthquake, **Senate Bill 717 is not going to pass this session.**

Our lobbying team, consisting of Mike Long and Amy Long, met with Professional Licensure Committee Chair Julie Harhart, who confirmed this unfortunate news. As chair of the committee, Rep. Harhart has the role of placing the bill on the agenda for the committee; however, she stated definitively that she would not run the bill under any circumstances. In spite of several attempted arguments, including a conversation with Senator Pat Vance, she would hear no one. Her decision is final. We looked at every possible way to circumvent Rep. Harhart, but we were unsuccessful.

Our entire team is very disappointed. You all care very deeply about this cause, and it showed in your outpouring of effort. You answered every call to action with resounding enthusiasm, professionalism and determination. Everyone worked so hard, and we are disappointed that we did not get across the finish line this year. PCNP members and our coalition partners completed over 5,000 legislative contacts this session, which is HUGE.

So we are at the same time optimistic about next session. We accomplished a great deal in a very short timeframe that we believe gives us momentum heading into 2017.

First, SB 717 received an overwhelming Senate vote of 41-to-9. Second, we have the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) fully engaged, along with several more heavy-hitting coalition partners. And third, while we don't know the committee chairs yet, we do know Rep. Harhart is retiring. We are looking at a more fruitful legislative landscape next session.

So the question becomes: **What's next?**

We are not going to broadcast the fact that we're giving up on 2016, and we will not make any public statements about it at this time.

We've come so far in a relatively short time, and we're going to leverage our momentum for 2017. We can and should continue to contact legislators about this issue, so that the ground remains fertile.

In the meantime, we will be preparing communications and lobbying plans for 2017. Our members will be kept informed via email communications as we roll out new initiatives.

I am so sorry to have to break this news to you, but know that I am genuinely optimistic about 2017. We are on the right side of history and I hope to witness it next year.

Sincerely,

PCNP President Lorraine Bock, DNP, FNP-C, ENP-C, FAANP