**ONA Report: Speaker - Vicki White Rankin (ONA rep)**

**APRN bill** – contents of the bill are very encouraging. Our state representatives were very attentive and seemed to “get it”. There will be a call for action but in the meantime she requested that we call our state representatives in support of the bill within the next 2 weeks. She stressed very encouraged to get legislative support for APRNs.

· House rep – HB2209

· Senate rep – SB569

**Surgical Smoke** – critical healthcare issue to help maintain safety and Oklahoma nursing workforce

· Nurses stay in job for reasons such as: how well are you treated, safety, salaries

· Nurses in Oklahoma not treated well or safely in our operating rooms

· 500,000 workers exposed to surgical smoke in the OR yearly r/t laser or electrosurgical equipment

· Every 8-hour shift healthcare workers in the OR inhale the equivalent of 27 cigarettes from surgical smoke

· Cautery/laser and electrosurgical equipment all need a local filtering device to remove the smoke at point of contact

· ONA is working on 2 bills to address this issue. This topic is being incorrectly defined as a “Stryker” bill. It is not a Stryker bill. There are approximately 5 companies that make the filtering equipment. ONA/AORN working in conjunction on this bill.

· 18 states currently have legislation requiring smoke filtering devices in the OR

· Texas and Arkansas introducing legislation this year

· Vicki feels if Oklahoma does not follow suit to provide a safe environment for our operating room nurses we will lose more to Texas and Arkansas over this issue

· ONA being told that this issue is not important to Oklahoma nurses and does not need to be introduced. Discussion among those in the meeting was that the majority of Oklahoma nurses are not aware of the dangers of surgical smoke. There will be a call to action once the bill is prepared.

**Metriarch Report:**

**Other Oklahoma bills to watch:**

HB2298 prescribing authority by APRNs (midwives) – similar to SB569 but with different supervision requirements and adds limits for APRNs

HB1169 – repeal medical abortion statute (repeals every section of law that has to do with abortion medication

HB1750 – bans all marijuana use during pregnancy – concern that it will lead to criminalization of pregnant women (ACOG opposes this bill)

**AWHONN on Capital Hill:**

Will be advocating for 3 bills at the federal level:

· Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act – strengthens federal support for maternal mortality review committees, enhances surveillance of pregnancy-related deaths, and aims to reduce disparities in maternal health.

· Maternal Health for Veterans Act – Part of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus – this bill requires the VA to report annually through FY2028 on maternal health care coordination, veteran health outcomes and recommendations for improvement. It also authorizes funding for VA maternal health programs through FY2028.

· Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs Reauthorization and Appropriations: this bill will increase funding for the federal nursing workforce Development Programs in the annual Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill.

**Opportunities for Legislative Engagement:**

ONA Website – Legislative Advocacy Resources

o Nurse of the Day <https://oklahomanurses.org/Nurse-of-the-Day>

o Nurses Day at the Capitol <https://oklahomanurses.org/Nurses-Day-at-the-Capitol>

o How to Talk to Legislators <https://oklahomanurses.org/Talk-with-Legislators>

o Student Guide <https://oklahomanurses.org/Student-Guide-to-Nurses-Day-at-the-Capitol>