

Board of Registered Nursing Sunset Review

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The Joint Committee on Boards, Commission, and Consumer Protection is a section of the California Legislature Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development. The primary goal of the Joint Committee is to systematically examine and evaluate all California boards and commissions to ensure that they are effectively, efficiently, and transparently administered in the public interest. Every regulatory board undergoes a review approximately every five years to determine whether they are fulfilling the goals as outlined by the Joint Committee. You can learn more about the Joint Committee at: <http://www.sen.ca.gov/JLSRC/senate.htm>.

The BRN was created in 1905 with the mission “to protect the health and safety of the public by promoting quality registered nursing care in the State of California.” The duties of the BRN include overseeing approximately 380,000 licensed Registered Nurses (RNs); renewing approximately 170,000 RN licenses yearly; regulates interim permittees; provides furnishing numbers to nurse practitioners and nurse midwives; and regulates and approves California Pre-licensure RN Programs, Nurse Midwifery Programs, Nurse Practitioner Programs, and BRN Continuing Educations Providers.

The California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) was scheduled to undergo a review this year. The Sunset Review Report 2010 was written by the nine member BRN to demonstrate how the Board is simultaneously fulfilling their mission and the goals of the Joint Committee (see Sunset Review Report, 2010). An Oversight Hearing chaired by Senator Curren D. Price, Jr. was held on March 14, 2011 (see background paper, attached). I had the great honor of representing CANA by providing testimony at the hearing regarding the relevance of the California BRN to our members and our position regarding several issues listed in the background paper. The hearing may be viewed on line at: <http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/2130>