Nurse Legislators 2023: Number & Trends January 1, 2023

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A new legislative session begins in January 2023 for all 50 states and the U.S. Congress.

How many of the 7,383 state legislators nationwide are nurses? An audit of the November 2022

election (review of state election results and self-report by state nursing associations) shows the

following:

-68 nurse legislators will be serving in 34 States

-15 are state senators; 53 are state representatives or delegates

-32 are Democrats; 36 are Republicans

-16 states lack nurse legislators: California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, & Wyoming.

The number of nurse legislators in 2023 continues a decade long downward

trend at both the federal and state level. In 2015, there were six nurses serving in the U.S. Congress

(ANA, 2015). In 2023, there are three, a 50% decrease.

In 2012/2013, there were 97 nurse legislators in 39 States (ANA, 2013). The 2023 numbers, 68

nurse legislators in 34 states, represent a 30% decrease in the number of nurse

legislators and a 13% decrease in the number of states with nurse legislators.

References:

American Nurses Association, 2015. Nurses Currently Serving in Congress.

American Nurses Association, 2013. Nurse State Legislators & Administrative Leaders Directory