



American Academy of Nursing on Policy

Advance care planning as an urgent public health concern

Virginia Tilden, DNSc, RN, FAAN*

Former Chair, Task Force on End-of-Life Conversations, American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing extensively engages in the work of policy improvement for better end-of-life care for all Americans. The Academy's work is evident in at least three specific recent activities:

- Publication in 2011 of a formal *Policy Brief (AAN on Policy, 2011)* that was widely disseminated and is again provided below.
- Publication of the *Letter to the Editor (Tilden, 2011)* published in 2011 in the *New York Times* in response to delays in federal legislation that would encourage advance care planning.
- Delivery of the critical conversation, a national panel presentation, (*American Academy of Nursing, 2011*) as part of the Academy's *Raise the Voice* initiative.

The critical conversation was held on October 7, 2011, at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, DC, and simultaneously broadcast nationally via live webcast. The event was designed for policy makers, clinicians, nursing students and the local and national

media. National experts on end-of-life care, including Manoj Jain, Amy Berman, Theresa Brown, Cynda Ruston, Suzanne Prevost, Kate O'Malley, and Joseph Prevratil, spoke in panel format on the topic of barriers to achieving meaningful, informed provider-patient/family conversations and on evidence-based solutions for improving advance care planning and treatment decision-making. Going forward, the Academy's policy work continues through ongoing activities of its Palliative and End-of-Life Care Expert Panel.

REFERENCES

- AAN on Policy: Advance care planning as an urgent public health concern. (2011). *Nursing Outlook*, 59(1), 55–56.
- American Academy of Nursing. (2011). *Raise the voice: critical conversations on best practices in advance care planning and decision making, a national panel presentation*. Washington, DC: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Tilden, V.P. (2011). Backpedaling, under pressure, on end-of-life talks. Letter to the Editor, *The New York Times*.

* Corresponding author: Dr. Virginia Tilden, American Academy of Nursing
E-mail address: vtilden@unmc.edu (V. Tilden).