

Speak for Health Advocacy Webinar for Leaders

July 28, 2022

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2022 Advocacy Priorities (117th Congress)

- Increase and protect funding for vital public health agencies and programs and strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure
- Uphold the Affordable Care Act and expand access to health coverage and services
- Address the health impacts of climate change
- Uphold critical public health laws and regulations and reverse damaging rollbacks
- Address the nation's gun violence epidemic
- Advance racial and health equity

Increase and protect funding for vital public health agencies and programs and strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure

- Increase funding for CDC and HRSA FY 2023. Final FY 2022 omnibus appropriations bill increased CDC funding by \$582 million and HRSA funding by \$1.2 billion. House bill provides \$10.5 B for CDC and \$9.3 B for HRSA
- Support PH infrastructure/PH laboratory funding in reconciliation legislation
- Support creation of a \$4.5 billion fund for core public health infrastructure at CDC and state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments (PH Infrastructure Saves Lives Act)
- Support the creation of a loan repayment program for public health professionals who enter S&L governmental PH
- Protect the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Increase and protect funding for vital public health agencies and programs and strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure

APHA FY 2023 funding requests

- CDC Coalition – led by APHA – FY 2023 request for CDC is \$11 billion. House bill would provide \$10.5 B for CDC a \$2 B increase
- Friends of HRSA Coalition – led by APHA – FY 2023 request for HRSA is \$9.8 billion. House bill would provide \$9.3 B for HRSA a \$638 M increase

Address the health impacts of climate change

- Support climate and clean energy provisions contained in the House-passed Build Back Better Act
- Increase funding for CDC's Climate and Health program - \$110 M in FY 2023. House bill would provide \$75 M
- Pass the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act (HHS national strategic plan to address health impacts of climate change)
- Support regulatory and legislative efforts to clean up major sources of pollution and roll-back damaging regulations under the Trump administration
- APHA, ALA and CATF sued EPA over the ACE rule (the much weaker replacement to the CPP) and the court ruled in our favor and vacated the ACE rule on Jan. 19! Case has been appealed to SCOTUS and oral arguments were heard in early March. Decision expected this summer.
- Support regulatory and legislative efforts to clean up major sources of pollution and roll-back damaging regulations under the Trump administration

Address the health impacts of climate change

Support climate and clean energy provisions contained in the House-passed Build Back Better Act in any final reconciliation legislation – Senate discussions currently underway but Sen. Manchin has put a hold on considering these provisions for now.

- Establish long-term clean energy tax incentives. Ten-year tax incentives for clean electricity, energy storage and transmission will help drive innovation and deployment of pollution-free energy.
- Rapidly transition to zero-emission vehicles and technology. The transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gases and a significant source of air pollution. Make it easier to purchase electric vehicles, including medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, through tax credits and incentives.
- Commit to environmental justice by ensuring 40% of investments in clean air go to frontline communities who have been disproportionately burdened by air pollution and climate change.

Uphold the Affordable Care Act and expand access to health coverage and services

- Improve and build upon the ACA by supporting enhanced premium tax credits and cost-sharing benefits in the Build Back Better Act (American Rescue Plan Act). A scaled back version of BBBA will likely extend these provisions for 2 additional years
- Protect the Prevention and Public Health Fund – fully allocated to PH programs in final FY 2022 omnibus appropriations bill
- Federal court challenge to the ACA's preventive health benefits coverage

Address the nation's gun violence epidemic

- Support increased funding at CDC and NIH for GVP research in FY 2023 - FY 2022 omnibus approps bill maintained \$12.5 million each which represents level funding.
- APHA has joined a new coalition with other PH, medical and research organizations to coordinate around GVP research funding. APHA will serve on the steering committee
- Congress passed APHA-supported Bipartisan Safer Communities Act signed by Biden
- Support legislation requiring universal background checks for all gun purchases – House has passed but Senate has not acted
- House also passed the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act – would create a national standard for ERPOs to allow the removal of firearms from those deemed potentially harmful to themselves or others
- House also passed the Protecting Our Kids Act – raise the age to purchase semiautomatic rifles to 21, ban large capacity ammunition magazines, require safe storage in homes, expand penalties for straw purchases and trafficking, subject ghost guns to background checks.

Uphold critical public health laws and regulations and reverse damaging rollbacks

- Repeal the Trump administration's finding that the MATS rule is no longer appropriate and necessary to protect the public's health – APHA/PH org lawsuit. EPA has issued a new proposed rule to reinstate the appropriate and necessary finding.
- APHA, ALA and CATF sued EPA over the ACE rule (the much weaker replacement to the CPP) and the court ruled in our favor and vacated the ACE rule on Jan. 19. In its decision, SCOTUS restricted the tools EPA can use, but the agency still has strong options under the CAA to set stringent existing source standards based on directly applied pollution control technologies and techniques.
- Repeal other damaging regulatory rollbacks that impact reproductive health, school meals, clean water etc. - ongoing

Uphold critical public health laws and regulations and reverse damaging rollbacks

- APHA and PH Deans/scholars brief supporting vaccine mandates (OSHA/CMS). OSHA rule struck down; CMS rule upheld
- APHA and PH Deans/scholars brief in MS abortion law – unfortunately SCOTUS overturned Roe v Wade
- APHA and PH Deans/scholars brief in case to block ACA coverage of preventive health benefits
- APHA briefs to SCOTUS support state vaccine mandates (ME, NY). SCOTUS rejects both in support of public health.
- Repeal other damaging regulatory rollbacks that impact reproductive health, school meals, clean water etc. - ongoing

Advance racial and health equity

- Support maternal health provisions in Build Back Better Act including provisions included in Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act
- Support legislation addressing the racial disparities in maternal health outcomes by strengthening the perinatal workforce, ensuring continuity of insurance coverage during and after pregnancy and to improving data collection (Monnibus)
- Support the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act – passed House – no action yet in the Senate
- Support the Health Equity and Accountability Act and the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act which seek to eliminate health disparities while correcting the conditions that cause and perpetuate them
- Support CDC social determinants of health funding – final omnibus bill increased funding by \$5 million to \$8 million in FY 2023.

APHA's Speak for Health Campaign



Advocacy Opportunities:

Speak for Health

- Speak for Health is a member-driven advocacy campaign to enhance the collective public health voice
- The campaign focuses on the August recess, when members are home and available to meet with constituents



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Advocacy Opportunities:

Speak for Health

- During August-September, APHA shares weekly resources with members to encourage advocacy
- All of these resources, including fact sheets, sample questions and more, can be found on the Speak for Health website

Check out the
Speak for Health website



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Advocacy Opportunities:

Speak for Health

- How can you get involved during the Speak for Health campaign?
 - Look out for weekly emails sharing advocacy tools
 - Relate your work/expertise to our priority issues
 - Share resources with your sections and networks



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APHA Advocacy Tools and Resources



You Can:

Send a Message

- APHA's action alerts are an easy way to contact your members of Congress on priority health issues
- Action alert topics: health equity, climate change, gun violence, and more
- Customizing an action alert is recommended – use your experience and expertise

[Click here to fill out an action alert](#)

You Can:

Attend a Town Hall

- Town halls and public forums are a great place to ask your elected officials questions about their commitment to public health
- APHA's sample questions for public forums provide suggested questions on priority issues and point to APHA-endorsed legislation

[Click here to read the sample questions](#)

You Can:

Write an Op-ed

- Op-eds are a great way to use your public health expertise and spread the word about important public health issues
- Aim your efforts at smaller, local papers
- APHA has op-ed templates on public health funding, climate change and gun violence which you can request by emailing speakforhealth@apha.org
- APHA's tips for writing an op-ed include helpful suggestions for getting an op-ed published

[Click here to read the op-ed writing tips](#)

You Can:

Schedule a Meeting

- 94% of congressional staff listed constituent meetings as a key influencer in their boss' decision-making process
- As APHA members, you have public health expertise and live all over the country – a perfect combination to become a public health advocate
- Meeting with your member can be quick, simple, and virtual – but very impactful for the member

[Find your elected official](#)

[Request a meeting](#)

You Can:

Boost your Efforts with Fact Sheets

- You don't have to already be an expert to be an advocate
- APHA provides a range of different fact sheets that you can point to in your advocacy
- These fact sheets can be used for phone calls, shared with elected officials during meetings and more

[State fact sheets](#)

[Issue fact sheets](#)

You Can:

Hold your Members Accountable

- APHA's congressional vote record shows how each member of Congress voted on key public health votes that took place throughout the year
- A higher score = better record of voting in favor of pro-public health legislation
- Use the vote record to congratulate members who have high scores, and encourage members with lower scores to do better on upcoming public health votes

[2021 Congressional Vote Record](#)

You Can:

Stay in the Loop

- APHA has several resources that you can use to stay up to date with our advocacy efforts, congressional developments and more
- APHA members receive a monthly Legislative Update with information about recent APHA advocacy on legislation, public health regulations, public health-related federal court cases and more
- Our website also contains a list of all the letters to Congress, comments to agencies, and court briefs that APHA has sent or joined

[Legislative
Update](#)

[Letters to Congress
and agencies](#)

[Testimony, comments
and briefs](#)

Tips for Meeting with your Elected Official



Meeting with your Elected Official

- **Confirm logistics with the staff in advance.** Will you be using your conference line or web-based virtual meeting platform or is the staff providing this? In general, staff will prefer for you to provide the conference line/set up the web-based meeting, but be sure to confirm this in advance.
- **Start the meeting on time.** If joining a phone call or a web-based virtual meeting with a staff member, be sure to be prompt and professional. Do not underestimate the power of the staff person in helping to shape the policy-maker's opinions and positions on issues or a particular piece of legislation.

Meeting with your Elected Official

- **Be concise.** Be sure to introduce yourself and explain why you are concerned about the issue and why you have expertise regarding the issue. Be concise, polite and professional.
- **Plan ahead.** If you are part of a pair or a group, you should agree on what points will be made and which one each of you will discuss prior to the meeting. Avoid speaking over each other.

Meeting with your Elected Official

- **Be prepared to answer questions.** When asked what you want, clearly explain your request.
- **Be a resource for the policymaker and his/her staff.** Offer your time and assistance if he/she wants to talk about your areas of interest and expertise in the future.
- **Provide material to support your position.** Before the meeting, email the staff with any materials (facts sheets, letters etc. summarizing your position on the issues) you want to discuss during the meeting and be sure to provide all of your contact information.
- **Follow up with a thank you email.** Be sure to include any additional information you may have promised or that may be relevant to the issue.

Questions?