2020 Speak for Health Webinar for APHA Leaders

July 24, 2020
APHA Government Relations
2020 Advocacy Priorities

- Strengthen funding for public health agencies and programs
- Support efforts to address the impacts of climate change
- Support innovative efforts to expand access to comprehensive affordable health coverage and services
- Support public health approaches to address gun violence
- Maintain strong public health regulations
Public Health Funding: Advocacy Goals

Increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration in FY 2021.

Oppose harmful policy riders or other efforts to block funding from critical public health services.
Federal Public Health Funding

• Discretionary Public Health Funding
  o Discretionary spending funds most public health agencies and programs nationwide, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. This type of spending must go through the annual congressional appropriations process, and the money cannot be allocated without congressional approval.

• The Annual Appropriations Process
  o February: President’s Budget
  o March/April: Congressional hearings on President’s budget
  o April – June: House and Senate draft appropriations legislation
  o June: House completes action on regular appropriations bills
  o July – September: Senate completes action on regular appropriations bills
  o September: House and Senate complete action on conference reports and President signs the bills into law
Federal Public Health Funding: The Landscape

• **FY 2020**: Congress provided increases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration

• **FY 2021**: APHA is urging Congress to build upon these important increases and to provide additional funding for CDC and HRSA
  
  • House bill provides $232 M additional for CDC discretionary for a total of $8 B and an additional $9 B in emergency funding.
  
  • House bill provides $157 M in additional funding for HRSA discretionary programs for a total of $7.2 billion.
  
• Senate action pending – timing unclear.
Federal Public Health Funding: The Landscape


- Deal averted a 12% cut to NDD and 13% cut to defense.

- President’s proposed budget has many cuts to public health programs.

- APHA worked with many other PH organizations to support congressional approval to Raise the Caps!

- Even with the deal NDD funding remains below 2010 levels.
COVID-19 legislation - Congress has passed 4 COVID-19-related bills

➢ March 6: President signs the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

➢ March 18: President signs the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

➢ March 27: President signs the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

➢ April 24: President signs the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

➢ May 15: House passes the HEROES Act. Senate has not taken up the bill.

See APHA’s summary of COVID-19 legislation to-date
Additional APHA recommendations for Future COVID-19 legislation

- **Public health funding**: Provide an additional $4.5 billion in annual mandatory public health infrastructure funding.
- **Workforce**: Invest in building and strengthening the public health workforce by enacting and implementing a loan repayment program for public health.
- **Contact tracing**: Support at least a base of $3.6 B federal investment for contact tracing expansion.
- **Worker protection**: Urge OSHA to immediately issue an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect all workers from exposure to COVID-19.
- **Nutrition**: Strengthen SNAP by increasing the minimum and maximum benefit.
- **Health coverage**: Reopen the ACA’s federal health exchanges to ensure people have the opportunity to obtain affordable and comprehensive health coverage.
Additional APHA recommendations for Future COVID-19 legislation

- **Safety net**: Ensure adequate funding is provided to safety net programs that protect the most vulnerable, including the homeless and other low-income individuals.

- **Data equity**: Update the COVID-19 surveillance systems to collect data on patients’ race, ethnicity, sex, age, primary language, sexual orientation, disability status, gender identity, and socioeconomic status in line with federal standards.

- **Paid leave**: Enact the PAID Leave Act to expand paid sick days and paid family and medical leave legislation and close the loopholes in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

- **Disparities**: Reduce disparities in access to testing and support anti-racist and implicit bias training for providers to reduce disparities in COVID-19 care.
Climate Change: Advocacy Goals

• Support federal, state and local health departments prepare for the impacts of climate change by adequately funding CDC’s Climate and Health Program.
• Support the inclusion of strong public health provisions in any broader climate legislation.

• Oppose efforts to weaken EPA ability to regulate GHGs under the Clean Air Act
• Oppose efforts to block or weaken existing regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
• APHA supports increased funding for CDC’s Climate and Health program which provides tools and resources to 16 state and local health departments to help diagnose and prepare for the serious adverse health impacts of climate change including extreme heat, more severe storms, floods, droughts, increases in air pollution and pollen and the spread of infectious and vector-borne diseases.

• APHA supports the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act (Sen. Markey and Rep. Cartwright). The bill would require HHS to develop a national strategic plan to address the health impacts of climate change and bolster federal support, research and data collection on the health impacts of climate change to help support federal, state and local action to protect communities from these health threats.

• APHA is monitoring efforts in Congress to develop legislation to reduce carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions. CCHPPA has been included in draft House bill and is included among the recommendations in the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis report issued in June.
Climate Change and Health: The Landscape

EPA Affordable Clean Energy rule replacement for the Clean Power Plan

• CPP plan would cut carbon pollution from the power sector by 30% from 2005 levels, prevent up to 4,500 premature deaths and 150,000 asthma attacks in children
• Currently put on hold by SCOTUS until lower court rules
• EPA’s ACE rule is much weaker than the CPP which would increase emissions of CO2 and other key pollutants—sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides
• APHA and ALA and other are suing EPA over this decision.
Access to Health Services: Advocacy Goals

Uphold the ACA and support efforts to build upon the important health access and coverage gains made under the ACA.

Support safety net programs that provide millions of people with affordable, comprehensive care in the U.S.

Maintain the Prevention and Public Health Fund and oppose efforts to redirect these funds away from their intended use.
In 2017, Congress’ attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act repeatedly failed. The Trump administration has turned to administrative and regulatory changes in an effort to undermine critical ACA protections:

- Expanded use of Association Health Plans
- CMS slashed funding for the ACA Navigator program
- Proposed Program Integrity Rule limits women’s access to reproductive services
Access to Health Services: The Landscape

• APHA has supported several bills to improve and expand the ACA during the 116th Congress

• APHA endorsed H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act which passed the House in June by a vote of 234-179.

  ➢ Bill would expand access by encouraging more states to expand Medicaid, provide additional premium supports, protect individuals with pre-existing conditions and roll-back administration rules that allow more plans that do not require ACA-compliant coverage.

  ➢ Other similar bills passed during the 116th first session in the House.
Access to Health Services: The Landscape

California v. Texas and U.S. House of Representatives v. Texas:

- A coalition of 18 conservative states is using the elimination of the tax penalty as their core argument in a lawsuit filed against the federal government alleging that the ACA’s individual mandate is unconstitutional and therefore the entire law should be overturned.

- A coalition of 21 states attorneys general, lead by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, is defending the law after the Trump administration sided with the plaintiff states.

- The case will now be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

- APHA joined deans, chairs and faculty of leading schools of public health on a friend of the court brief, highlighting the many public health benefits of the ACA including the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
Access to Health Services: The Landscape

Prevention and Public Health Fund

• Created by ACA, nation’s first and only mandatory funding stream dedicated to improving public health.

• Supports community prevention and clinical prevention programs, strengthens infrastructure and workforce, expands research and tracking.

• Makes up 11% of CDC’s budget.

• Congress has the power to eliminate the fund or redirect money from it to pay for non-public health related legislative proposals.
Gun Violence Prevention: Advocacy Goals

Provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health with funding to conduct gun violence research

Support legislation that requires universal background checks for all firearm purchases in the U.S.

Support legislation to allow for extreme risk protection orders to remove guns from dangerous individuals
Gun Violence Prevention

Gun violence is a leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. and a public health crisis

- In 2017, in the United States more than 39,000 people were killed as a result of gun violence and tens of thousands more suffered non-fatal injuries
- APHA is advocating for a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis
Gun Violence Prevention: The Landscape

Legislation:

- **H.R.8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019**
  - Passed the House by bipartisan vote of 240-190 (2019)
  - Senate Republican leadership has stated they do not plan to bring up the bill
  - APHA has endorsed this legislation

- **Funding for CDC to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention**
  - The final FY 2020 spending bill contained $25 million split evenly between CDC and NIH for gun violence prevention
  - APHA has joined public health and health care advocates in urging Congress to provide $50 million to CDC/NIH in FY 2021 for GVP research.
  - House FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Ed appropriations bill provides $25 M each to CDC and NIH for GVP research.
Public Health Regulations: Advocacy Goals

Oppose efforts in Congress and the administration to weaken existing public health regulations.

Weigh in with agencies to advocate for strong public health protections in key rules and regulations.
Public Health Regulations

• **Federal rules** play an important role in protecting the public from serious health threats including deadly air pollution, toxic chemicals, food contamination and workplace injuries.

• APHA is working to maintain the integrity of the federal regulatory process to protect critical public health regulations and policies.
Public Health Regulations: The Landscape

Threats to Public Health

• **Title X domestic gag rule:** The Trump administration recently published a final rule that restricts Title X-funded health providers and facilities from providing or referring for abortion services.

• **USDA proposed rule on school meals:** The Trump administration proposed rule would jeopardize the progress schools are making to provide healthier food to vulnerable children and decrease the overall healthfulness of school meals. APHA joined an amicus brief opposing the new rule and in a victory for public health, in April, a federal court agreed and **struck down the rule**.

• **Clean Power Plan:** EPA has repealed the CPP and has proposed a more limited replacement which would increase emissions of CO2 and other key pollutants—sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. [APHA and ALA are taking legal action against EPA’s final rule](#).

• **Mercury Air Toxics standards for power plants:** EPA’s final revised rule would recalculate the costs and benefits of the rules, drastically lowering the estimated benefits – threatening the rule and making it harder to strengthen the rule in the future. EPA declares the rule is no longer “appropriate and necessary” [APHA and other health and environmental groups are suing EPA](#).
APHA Grassroots Advocacy

APHA members:

- Amplify APHA advocacy efforts
- Provide public health expertise
- Provide constituent perspective
Grassroots Advocacy

• 83 percent of staffers cited personal reasons as a main driver of a member’s decision-making.

• Many final decisions come down to either communication with staff or are personal decisions.

• Therefore, member decisions can be influenced, but communication must be thoughtful, personal and based in science and fact.

Source: Congressional Management Foundation 2015 survey of congressional staff, including Chiefs of Staff, Communications Directors, Legislative Directors, and Legislative Assistants.
APHA Grassroots Advocacy

Grassroots Advocacy

• Constituent engagement has the greatest influence on a Member of Congress’ decision-making.

• APHA has the tools you need to connect with your Members of Congress about the importance of public health.
APHA Grassroots Advocacy

**Speak for Health**

- A member-driven advocacy campaign
- Resources for APHA members and their communities to advocate for public health
- Opportunities for Affiliates and local APHA members to connect
- Enhance the collective public health voice
APHA Grassroots Advocacy

Speak for Health Resources:

- Public Health on the Ballot - questions for candidates
- Public Health on the Ballot graphics
- Issue fact sheets – public health funding, climate change, gun violence, etc.
- State fact sheets – coming soon

Access these Speak for Health resources here
APHA Advocacy Resources
APHA Advocacy Resources

Congressional Visits

- How to contact a congressional staffer
- Meeting request email template
- Tips for meeting with a member of Congress
- The Do’s and Don’ts for your Capitol Hill visit
Tips for virtual meetings with your member of Congress/staff

• **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.
Tips for virtual meetings with your member of Congress/staff

• **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.
Tips for your virtual meeting with your member of Congress/staff

• **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.
**Action Alerts**

**Tell your representative to support universal background checks for all gun sales**

Your voice makes a difference in the policymaking process. Get involved and help shape the national debate on public health issues. Take action today!

Tell your members of Congress to cosponsor the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act

Tell Congress to pass commonsense measures to reduce gun violence

Tell Congress to protect the public's health from climate change

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Message 1 - Eleanor Norton

Dear [Representative's Name],

As a constituent and public health advocate, I urge you to support H.R. 5, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, legislation that would expand the current criminal background checks system to all commercial gun sales.

Current law, which only requires background checks for guns purchased from federally licensed dealers, is inadequate and contains significant gaps that provide easy access to weapons for felons, domestic abusers, the seriously mentally ill, and others prohibited from owning firearms. I urge you to support H.R. 5, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, which would close these senseless loopholes by requiring the same background check for all commercial gun sales including those at gun shows, on the internet, and through classified ads, with limited exceptions.

Thank you for your attention to my comments. I urge you to vote yes on H.R. 5 when it comes to the House floor for a vote to help prevent more of these senseless killings.

*Your Closing*

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
APHA Advocacy Resources

Action Alerts

Personalization is key

Be clear
• Clearly and concisely state your position and how you want your Member of Congress to act
• Provide reasoning

Be specific
• Explain the impact this legislation will have on your community, district, state, etc.
• Use data whenever possible
APHA Advocacy Resources

Speak for Health

- Speak for Health
- Fact sheets
- Infographics
- Reports and issue briefs
- Monthly Legislative Update
- Annual Congressional Vote Record
- APHA Policy Statements
- Webinars
APHA Advocacy Resources

and more resources!

• Letters to Congress, White House, federal agencies
• Regulatory comments
• Testimony for congressional hearings
• Briefs to support or oppose public health-related court cases
APHA Advocacy Resources

Advocacy in Action

- Virtual Hill visits at midyear meetings
- APHA action alerts
- Speak for Health on Social Media
- Virtual visits/virtual town halls during Congressional recess

APHA members are bringing attention to critical public health issues on social media.
Questions?