An Overview of the Legislative Process

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6-7 p.m. EST
Speakers

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Objectives

After attending this webinar, attendees will be able to:

• Explain the difference between grassroots advocacy and direct lobbying
• Understand the basics of the legislative process in the United States
• Understand importance of grassroots advocacy to health legislation
• Complete Academy Action Alerts.
Some definitions…

• Policy
• Advocacy
• Direct Lobbying vs. Grassroots Advocacy
Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law

Representative Introduces bill in the House of Representatives*

House Committee/Subcommittee
- Releases
- Revises & Releases
- Table

House floor
- Bill is read, debated and amended; simple majority needed to pass

Passes different bill than Senate

Passed bills sent to other chamber unless similar measures are already under consideration

Conference Committee**
- Writes compromise bill. That bill goes back to both houses for final approval; approved bill is sent to the President

Bill becomes Law

President signs

President vetoes

2/3 vote in Congress can override veto

Senator Introduces bill in the Senate*

Senate Committee/Subcommittee
- Releases
- Revises & Releases
- Table

Senate floor
- Bill is read, debated and amended; simple majority needed to pass

Passes different bill than House

*Legislation may be introduced in either chamber except for tax law, which must originate in the House

**Most major legislation goes to conference committee; When one chamber passes legislation originating in the other without making changes, bill goes directly to President

Bills Face Numerous Obstacles to Passage in Senate

The Legislative Process and Obstacles in the Senate

- Introduced to Chamber
- Sent to Committee
- Sent to Subcommittee
- Placed on Legislative Calendar
- Full Senate Vote
- Debated on Senate Floor
- Senate Majority Leader declines to place bill on the legislative calendar
- Amended
- ‘Poison pill’ amendments sabotage final passage
- Bill is filibustered during debate on Senate floor
- Bill fails passage in full committee vote
- Bill fails passage in subcommittee vote
- Bill is ignored by full committee

The Senate relies on unanimous consent to operate efficiently; therefore, individual Senators have the power to delay or prevent a bill’s passage by creating additional procedural hurdles, including filibusters.

Bills Continue to Face Hurdles After Passage

Process and Obstacles for Enacting and Enforcing Laws

- President vetoes bill, Congress can override veto with a supermajority vote
- Signed by President
- Enacted
- If the law is challenged in court, a judge can rule to prevent enforcement with an injunction and may eventually strike down the law
- Executive orders or signing statements can prevent a law from being enforced as originally intended

Analysis
- Even if a bill manages to pass both chambers of Congress, the President can use vetoes, executive orders, or signing statements to prevent the bill from being enacted or enforced
- Opponents of the bill, including those outside of the legislative process, can prevent the law from being enacted by mounting a successful legal challenge

An example: Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)

- Marker bills
- Appropriations process for FY 2020 funding
- Strategic meetings w/ legislators
  - Committees involved
- House & Senate have to reach consensus on 1 bill
- Click for more information on CNR
Appropriations process

Once a program is authorized, it can be funded through an appropriations bill.

- February: President releases budget request.
- March – April: Senate passes budget resolution. Congress passes combined budget resolution. House passes budget resolution.

Sources: Congressional Research Service

Slide taken from Academy CNR Update Call, 11/13/19
How Can You Be Involved in Advocacy?
Advocacy Steps

• Complete AND’s Action Alerts
• Meet in-district with legislators
• Attend IAND’s Day at the Statehouse
• Attend the Nutrition & Dietetics Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C.
• Donating to INPAC and/or ANDPAC
Action Alerts

- AND-sponsored way to reach legislators on federal legislation
- Takes only 2 minutes to complete!
- Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Action Center
  - New Action Center coming soon!
  - Stay tuned for more information
In-district legislator meetings

- Town hall meetings
- Meet at district office
- Meet at other public event
- Attend fundraising event
  - Request PAC funds!
  - Contact Martha McClurg for more information
IAND’s Day at the Statehouse

- February 27, 2020
AND Nutrition & Dietetics
Advocacy Summit

- In-depth advocacy training in Washington D.C.
- Date for 2020 to be announced
Become part of the PAC

• Political Action Committee (PAC)
• Member donations used together to strategically help advocacy efforts
• ANDPAC
• INPAC
  • Contact Martha Rardin, MSM, RDN, LD, FAND
    (martha.rardin@hendricks.org)
Public Policy Announcements

● 2019-2020 Public Policy Webinar Series
  ○ Next webinar: Monday, December 16, 6-7 p.m.
    ■ Cases of Harm: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
  ○ Free for IAND members!
  ○ Worth 1 CPEU.
  ○ Webinar will be recorded and is approved for CPEU credit.

● Day at the Statehouse - February 27, 2020
Questions?

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