

2021 Speak for Health Webinar for APHA Leaders

July 20, 2021

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



Advance racial equity



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 2022.

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

Federal Public Health Funding

- **Discretionary Public Health Funding**

- 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**

- February: President's Budget
- March/April: Congressional hearings on President's budget
- April – June: House and Senate draft appropriations legislation
- June: House completes action on regular appropriations bills
- July – September: Senate completes action on regular appropriations bills
- September: House and Senate complete action on conference reports and President signs the bills into law

Federal Public Health Funding: The Landscape

- President Biden released his FY 2022 budget request in two releases, the discretionary ask in April and the full budget in May.
- The proposed budget would increase funding for many public health agencies and programs and also includes the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan.
- APHA has been advocating for increased funding for CDC and HRSA on Capitol Hill and with the administration.
- The congressional appropriations process is now underway with the House taking the lead.

Federal Public Health Funding: FY 2022 Key Asks

Appropriations:

- \$10 billion in fiscal year 2022 appropriations for CDC
- \$9.2 billion in fiscal year 2022 appropriations for HRSA
- \$4.5 billion in long-term annual funding for public health infrastructure

Additional legislative efforts to bolster public health infrastructure:

- Senator Murray's Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act would establish public health infrastructure funding as a mandatory fund and is supported by APHA. PHISLA would establish a Core Public Health Infrastructure Program at the CDC to award grants to state, local, Tribal and territorial health to ensure they have the cross-cutting capabilities, tools and trained workforce to address existing and emerging health threats while also combating existing health disparities.

Federal Public Health Funding: Updates

House:

- The House Appropriations Committee released its Labor-HHS-Education bill earlier in July. The bill includes:
 - More than \$10.5 billion for CDC (+\$2.7 billion over FY21)
 - \$1 billion in new flexible funding for state and local public health infrastructure needs
 - \$106 million, for strengthening the public health workforce (+\$50 million over FY21)
 - \$110 million for CDC's Climate and Health Program (+\$100 million over FY21)
 - \$50 million total for gun violence research at CDC and NIH (+\$25 million over FY21)
 - \$153 million for social determinants of health (+\$150 million over FY21)
 - \$150 million for the ongoing effort to CDC data modernization (+\$100 million over FY21)

Federal Public Health Funding: Updates

House:

- The House Appropriations Committee released its Labor-HHS-Education bill earlier in July. The bill includes:
 - A total of \$8.7 billion for HRSA (+\$1.6 billion over FY21)
 - \$1.8 billion for the Health Centers program (+\$148 million over FY21)
 - \$2.7 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program (+\$231 million over FY21)
 - \$1.2 billion for maternal and child health (+\$214 million over FY21)
 - \$400 million for the Title X Family Planning program (+\$113.5 million over FY21)
 - \$1.6 billion for HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions (+\$341 million over FY 21)

Senate:

- The Senate has not released its bill yet.



Climate Change: Advocacy Goals

- Support federal, state and local health departments prepare for the impacts of climate change by increasing funding for CDC's Climate and Health Program.
 - Support the inclusion of strong public health provisions in any broader climate legislation.
-
- Support efforts to strengthen regulations to reduce green house gas emissions.
 - Oppose efforts to weaken EPA ability to regulate GHGs under the Clean Air Act

Climate Change and Health: The Landscape

- President Biden has called for key climate change investments in the American Jobs Plan with a goal of moving toward 100 percent clean power by 2035 – many provisions may end up in Dem reconciliation bill.
 - Invest in electric vehicle development and incentives for consumer to transition to EVs
 - rehabilitating, and retrofitting affordable, accessible, energy efficient, and resilient housing, commercial buildings, schools, and child care facilities
 - Ensure provision are equitable and address environmental justice issues.
- President Biden is also rescinding and reviewing many of the Trump administrations rules that weakened previous climate change-related regulations including the power and transportation sectors
- Biden’s budget also contains numerous increases for climate related activities at EPA,CDC, NIH etc.

Climate Change and Health: Key Asks

- Support key climate provisions in the American Jobs Plan
- Support **\$110 million for CDC's Climate and Health program**. This would allow CDC to fund all 50 states and additional localities to help diagnose and prepare for the serious adverse health impacts of climate
- support the **Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act**. 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.
- APHA is monitoring efforts in Congress and EPA to reduce carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions.
- APHA will work to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power and transportation sectors, power sector emissions, transportation emissions, transition to EVs etc.
- APHA supports additional HHS efforts to address the health impacts of climate change.



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.

Access to Health Services: The Landscape

In June, the Supreme Court once again uphold the ACA. APHA and public health deans and scholars submitted a brief to SCOTUS urging them to uphold the ACA

The American Rescue Plan Act expanded access to health insurance coverage, making it more accessible and affordable by enhancing premium tax credits for plans in the Affordable Care Act marketplace for 2021 and 2022 – the reconciliation bill may seek to make this change permanent.

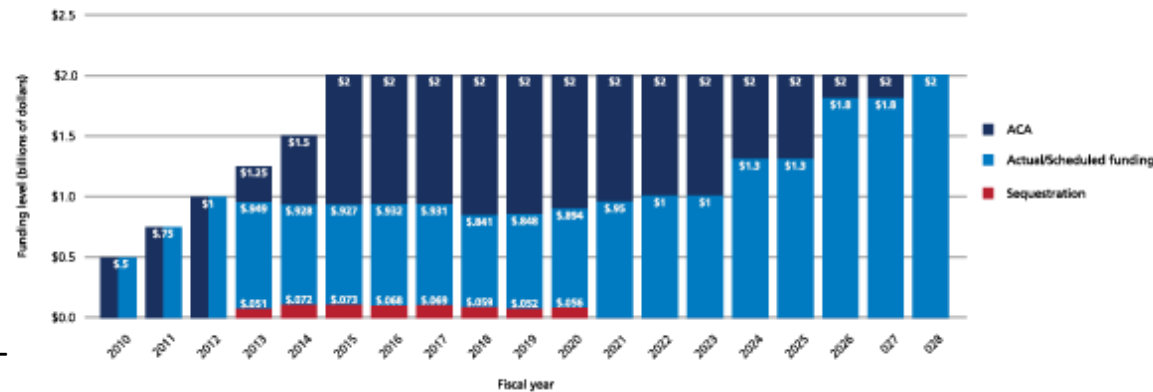
Other efforts may emerge as part of the reconciliation bill or additional legislation down the road.

APHA continues to work to ensure full allocation of PPHF for its intended purpose.

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



Access to Health Services: Key Asks

- Further expand ARPA provisions to increase duration of increased premium subsidies for ACA plans
- Support efforts to provide Medicaid coverage to individuals living in states that have thus far failed to expand Medicaid under the ACA.
- Oppose additional federal challenges to the ACA in the federal courts.
- APHA continues to advocate for maintaining the Prevention and Public Health Fund and opposing any improper use of the fund.
- APHA may support additional efforts to expand access under the reconciliation process.



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

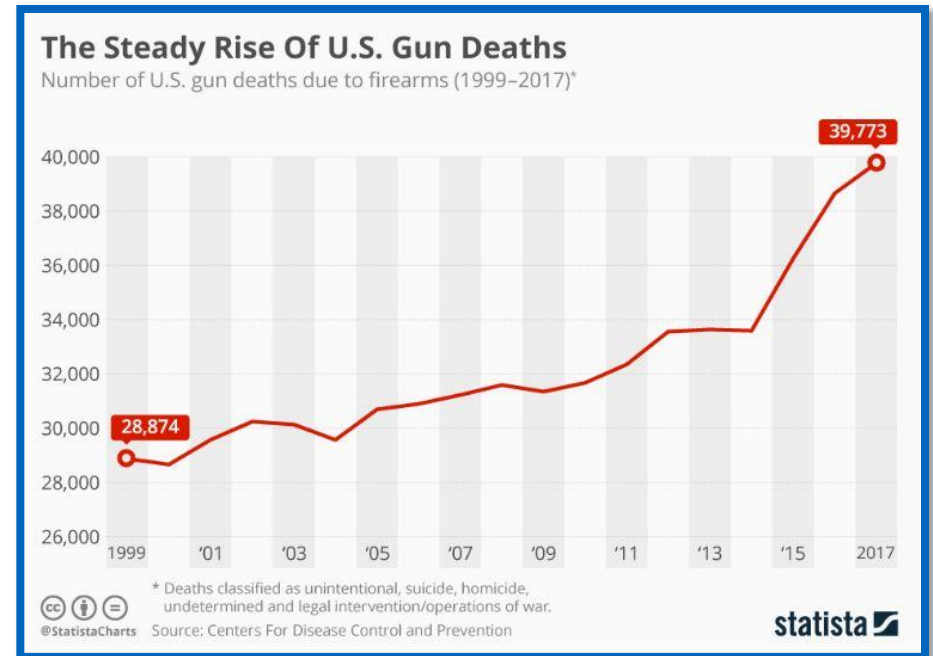
Support legislation that requires universal background checks for all firearm purchases in the U.S.

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 2019, in the United States 39,707 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: Key Asks

- **H.R.8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 / S.529, the Background Check Expansion Act**
 - H.R. 8 passed the House on March 11 by a 227-203 vote.
 - Awaiting Senate passage
- **APHA supports H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021**
- **Funding for CDC to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention**
 - The final FY 2021 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 2022 for GVP research.
 - House FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Ed appropriations bill doubles funding by providing provides \$25 M each to CDC and NIH for GVP research – supporting APHA’s request.



Advancing Racial Equity: Advocacy Goals

Address social determinants of health.

Address racial disparities in health outcomes, such as those in maternal health and maternal mortality.

Address police violence and the harm done to Black communities and other communities of color.

Advancing Racial Equity: Key Asks

- **S. 104/H.R. 379, the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021**
 - Recently had hearing in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- **S. 346/H.R. 959, the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021**
- **H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021**
 - Passed the House on March 3 by a 220 – 212 vote
 - Awaiting Senate consideration
- **The Health Equity and Accountability Act**
 - Awaiting reintroduction



Public Health Regulations: Advocacy Goals

Weigh in with agencies and the administration 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

Support for Proposed Rules:

- APHA supports the HHS newly-proposed Title X rule that would undo the previous harmful restrictions placed on Title X clinics
- APHA supports EPA's proposed reconsideration of California's Advanced Clean Cars waiver
- APHA supports EPA's proposed rule to phasedown the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons

Other Regulatory Issues:

- APHA urges the White House Office of Management and Budget that any update to the social cost of carbon used by the agency adequately accounts for the health impacts of climate change
- APHA has contacted the U.S. Department of Transportation recommending the rescission of rules that undermine setting strong pollution controls on the transportation sector
- APHA has contacted EPA to immediately revoke all food tolerances for chlorpyrifos and initiate the cancellation process to end all uses of the pesticide
- APHA joined a petition to EPA requesting a review of the agency's Dec. 31, 2021 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone

APHA Grassroots Advocacy



APHA Grassroots Advocacy

APHA members:

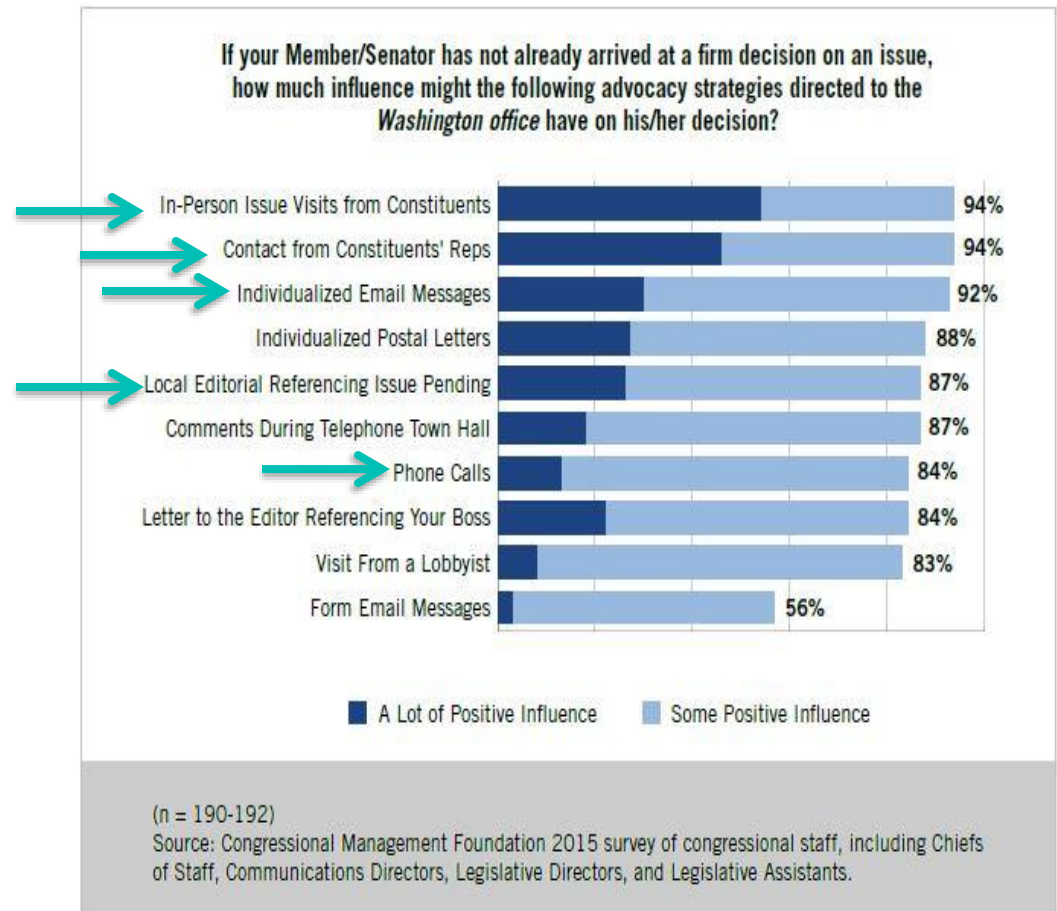
- Amplify APHA advocacy efforts
- Provide public health expertise
- Provide constituent perspective



APHA Grassroots Advocacy

Grassroots Advocacy Informs

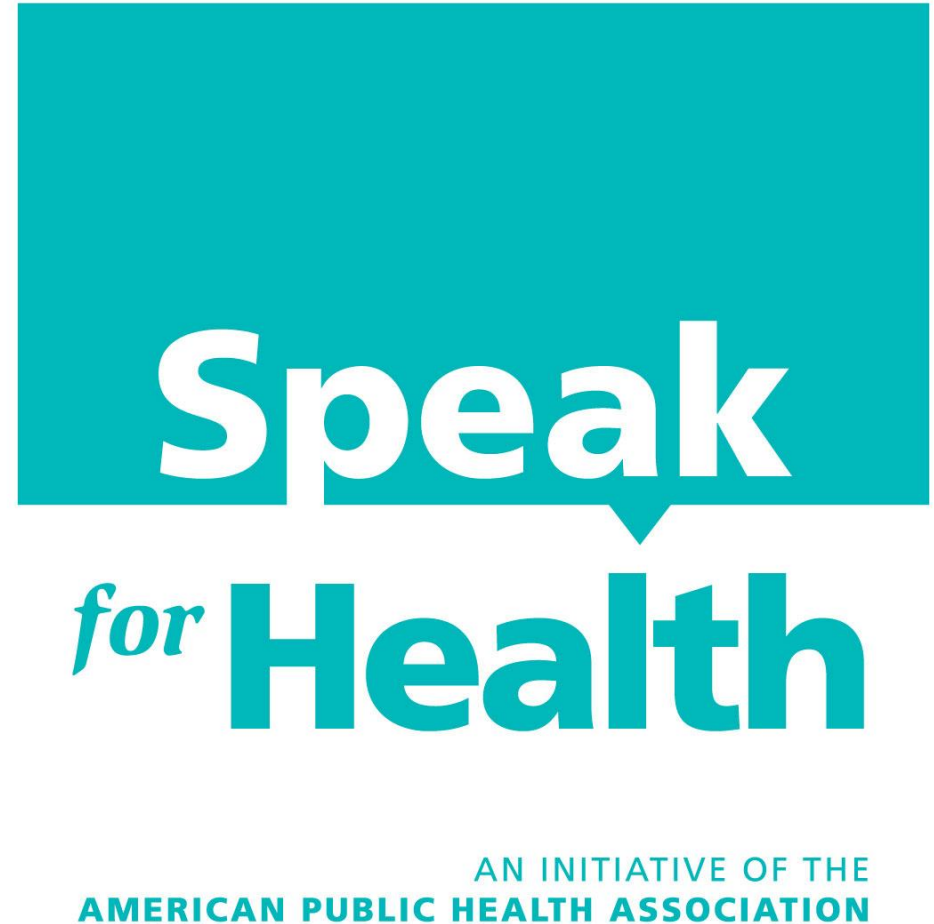
- 83 percent of staffers cited personal reasons as a main driver of a member's decision-making
- Many final decisions come down to either communication with staff or are personal decisions
- Therefore, member decisions can be influenced, but communication must be thoughtful, personal and based in science and fact



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 Advocacy Resources



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.

APHA Advocacy Resources

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Action Alerts

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Coming to D.C.?

Priorities

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 representative to support universal background checks for all gun sales

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



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

Gun violence in our communities has taken the lives of too many innocent people. We cannot allow senseless gun violence to continue and we must act now to prevent future tragedies. Take the time to tell your members of Congress to support universal background checks for all firearm sales.

Message 1 - Eleanor Norton

Recipients

U.S. House of
Representatives

DeL. Eleanor Norton
(D-DC)

* Message Subject:

Support universal background checks for all firearm sales.

Dear [Recipients],

As a constituent and public health advocate, I write to urge you to support H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, legislation that would expand the current criminal background checks system to all commercial firearm sales.

* Your Message:

Gun violence is one of the leading preventable causes of death in the nation. In 2017, more than 39,000 individuals died as a result of gun violence. After years of delay, it is time for Congress to act and take a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis. Our nation has waited far too long to take on this devastating problem in our communities and we can wait no longer.

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. 8, 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 to vote yes on H.R. 8 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

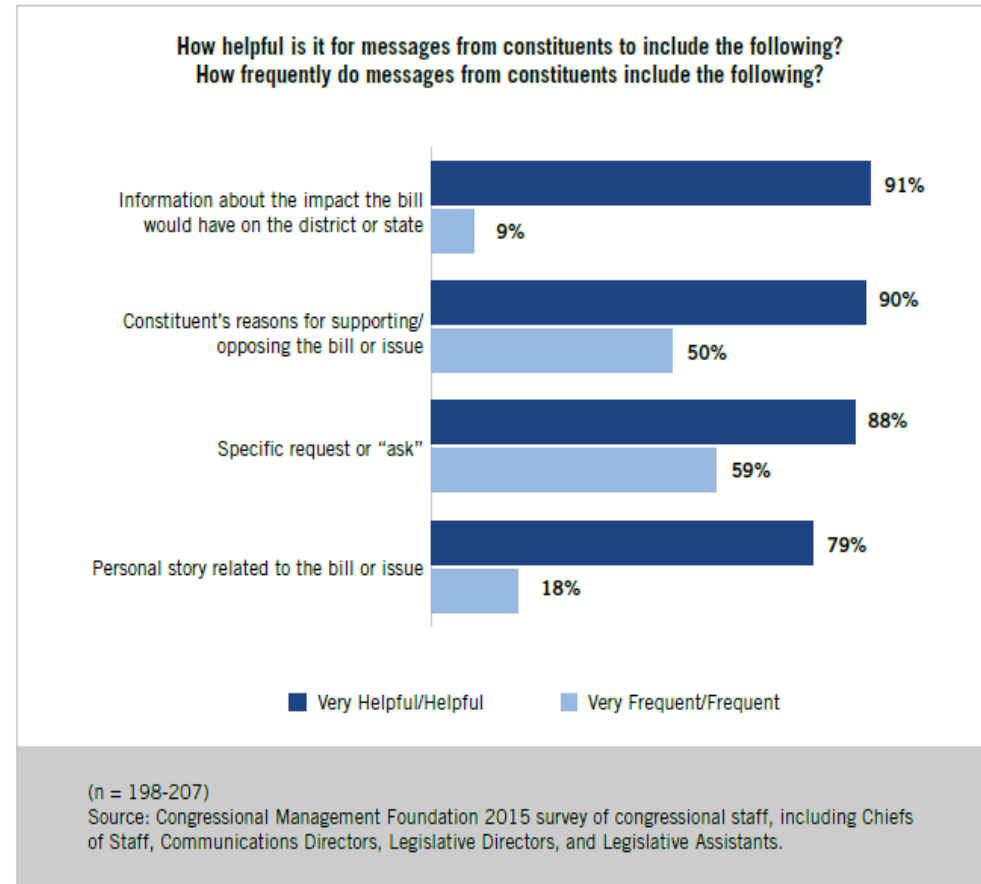
Be clear

- 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

You can complete an action alert right now by visiting the [Action Alert page](#).



Stay up to date with APHA's advocacy efforts

- [117th Congress Advocacy Priorities](#): This document summarizes APHA's top six public health priorities for the 117th Congress and the Biden Administration
- [APHA Legislative Update](#): This monthly update contains key information on what APHA has been advocating for, what Congress has been voting on and what agencies have been doing as it pertains to public health
- [Letters to Congress and federal agencies](#): Here you can check out letters that APHA has sent or joined to members of Congress, Committees and federal agencies on a wide range of topics
- [Testimony, comments and briefs](#): Check out this page for a list of ways that APHA has engaged with agencies, courts and committees

Engage in your own advocacy efforts

Plan a meeting with your member of Congress:

- [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](#)

Be prepared with materials and talking points:

- [Speak for Health resources](#): Here you can find issue fact sheets, state fact sheets, and more materials to boost your advocacy efforts.

Other advocacy resources

- [Infographics](#)
- [Reports and issue briefs](#)
- [Annual Congressional Vote Record](#)
- [APHA Policy Statements](#)
- [Webinars](#)

Questions?