Civics 101
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Overview

• Advocacy Matters
• Congress 101
• Case Study - FAST Act
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In Reality, Congress Matters A Lot!

- NOH had a critical impact in recent years
  - **SGR Repeal**: became law in 2015
  - **FAST Act**: became law in 2018
  - **BRAIN Initiative**: $85m increase in FY16, and another $110m increase in FY17
  - **AAN’s Principles for Health Care Delivery**: Congressional efforts out of alignment with the AAN’s Principles were defeated in 2017
Budget Deal

- $2 billion for NIH
- $6 billion to combat the opioid crisis
- Elimination of the IPAB
- Telehealth flexibility for MA plans and ACOs
- CHIP extension for 10 years
- Repeal of the Medicare therapy caps
- Significant MACRA changes

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US Government Structure

CONSTITUTION

LEGISLATIVE
The U.S. Capitol
CONGRESS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE

EXECUTIVE
The White House
PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT

JUDICIAL
The Supreme Court
SUPREME COURT

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#Senate vs. House

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 100 members</td>
<td>• 435 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 per state</td>
<td>• Number based on state’s population</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Staggered 6 year terms</td>
<td>• Wyoming: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1/3 seats up for re-election in 2018</td>
<td>• California: 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Confirms presidential appointments and treaties</td>
<td>• 2 year terms (every seat up for re-election in 2018)</td>
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<td>• Originate all revenue bills</td>
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How Laws Are Made

1. Bills are introduced into either chamber by a Sponsor
   - Only members of Congress can sponsor a bill
   - Additional members of the same chamber may sign on as co-sponsors

2. Bills are referred to committee(s) or subcommittee(s) with jurisdiction over the subject matter
   - Point of influence: Committees may conduct research and hold hearings on the bills referred to them, a prime opportunity for advocacy

• In a textbook Congress, committees/subcommittees are where the real work takes place

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Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law

Representative
Introduces bill in the House of Representatives

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

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

Passed different bill than Senate

Senator
Introduces bill in the Senate

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

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

Passed different bill than House

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

President signs
Bill becomes Law

President vetoes

2/3 vote in Congress can override veto

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Where Do Bills Come From?

- Associations
  - Like AAN
- Individual constituents
- Lobbyists
  - Like me!
- Personal interest of Members of Congress
  - FAST Act sponsor Morgan Griffith (R-VA)
23 Registered Lobbyists per Member of Congress

• There are 535 Members of Congress, and in 2013 there were 12,341 registered lobbyists
• For every Member of Congress, there are 23 registered lobbyists competing for time and attention
• Reaching lawmakers is difficult!

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Registered Lobbyists per Member of Congress by Type

1 : 23
Members of Congress to Registered Lobbyists

1 : 247
Committee Chairs to Registered Lobbyists

1 : 1,371
Members of Majority Leadership to Registered Lobbyists

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“Hill Speak” – What You Need to Know

• **Bipartisan**: at least one Democrat & one Republican agree
  ▪ This is a big range!

• **Bill Sponsor**: the leader/driver of an issue

• **Lead Co-sponsor**: the co-driver of the issue, usually someone in the minority party

• **Co-sponsor**: an endorser of a bill after it’s intro’d

• **Original Co-sponsor**: an endorser of a bill prior to it being introduced
“Hill Speak” – What You Need to Know

- **Committee of Jurisdiction**: Only certain committees have authority to deal with health care issues. Our focus will be on:
  - House Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Appropriations
  - Senate Finance, HELP, and Appropriations
- **“On Committee”**: This means that the member of Congress serves on a committee of jurisdiction for your issue
“Hill Speak” – What You Need to Know

• **Chief of Staff (CoS):** Office lead

• **Legislative Director (LD):** Chief political advisor, manager of all policy issues & may be responsible for the office’s top issues

• **Legislative Counsel:** Provides legal and policy advice

• **Legislative Assistant (LA):** Not really an “assistant” – they are policy experts that have a portfolio of issues

• **Legislative Correspondent (LC):** They support LAs, often Senate meetings are with an LC
  ▪ They are the future Chiefs of Staff!

• **Scheduler:** They decide if you get a meeting!

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Staffers Significantly Outnumber Members of Congress

Members and Staff of Congress

- **Members**
- **Congressional Committee Staff**
- **Personal Office Staff**

### House
- Members: 435
- Congressional Committee Staff: 1324
- Personal Office Staff: 6907

### Senate
- Members: 100
- Congressional Committee Staff: 913
- Personal Office Staff: 3884

Source: National Journal

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Case Study – the FAST Act

Bill Introduced
Dear Colleague
AAN Promotes In Meetings

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Case Study – the FAST Act

Bill Included in Other Larger Bills

Reintroduction for New Congress

Hearings

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Passed Out of Senate
Passed Out of Committee
Included in Budget Deal

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Questions?