

***aapa*2023**

**Beyond Hollywood – How Washington Really  
Functions and AAPA Federal Advocacy Makes a  
Difference**

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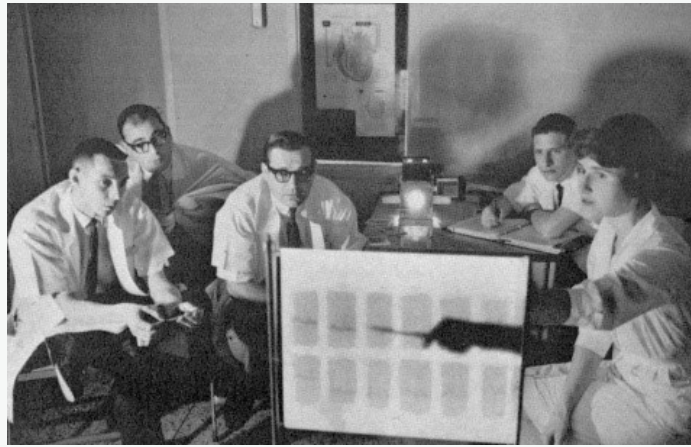
***Non-Declaration Statement: We have no relevant relationships with ineligible companies to disclose within the past 24 months.***

# Learning Objectives

The lecture will inform participants on how federal policy impacts the PA profession and how federal advocacy can improve PA practice. The lecture will include an overview of AAPA's current top federal policy priorities for 2023, as well as information on best practices for PA advocates.

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

- Review historical relationship between federal government and the PA profession
- Recognize how federal healthcare programs and the federal workforce impact the PA profession
- Review AAPA's current federal policy priorities and explain how advocacy can improve PA practice and patient care
- Identify best practices for federal advocacy, how to overcome challenges to achieve success, and PA-PAC



**The first class of PAs in 1965  
were former Navy Corpsmen**

## The Federal Government

- **Largest employer of PAs**
- **Establishes payment and coverage rules for health programs, including Medicare and Medicaid (covering 90 million people)**
- **Responsible for addressing national priorities or crises such as a pandemic or addressing the mental health and opioid overdose crisis.**



## What the Federal Government Does Not Do

- **States are responsible for regulating “the practice of medicine”**
- **States regulate health professions and scope of practice**



## **AAPA Advocacy Division**

**Within the AAPA Advocacy Department, two teams have significant focus on federal issues**

- Federal Advocacy
- Reimbursement and Professional Advocacy





# Health Sector Lobbying in 2021

Health Sector Spent \$677 Million in 2011 Lobbying

Industry	Total Spending
Pharmaceuticals/Health Products	\$353,940,426
Hospitals/Nursing Homes	\$117,399,138
Health Services HMOs	\$113,880,312
Health Professionals	\$84,923,753
Misc Health	\$6,982,008

Source: Center for Responsive Politics



## Recent AAPA Legislative Successes

- **Enactment of legislation authorizing PAs to receive Direct Medicare Payment**
- **Enactment of RAISE Act raising federal salary caps on PAs Practicing at the Veterans Health Administration**
- **Enactment of Legislation Authorizing PAs to order home healthcare services for Medicare Patients**
- **Enactment of competitive pay legislation for PAs working at the Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Elimination of the federal requirement to obtain a DATA Waiver for PAs to prescribe MAT to patients with OUD**
- **Enactment of legislation authorizing PAs to serve as “attending physicians” for hospice patients**



## Top AAPA Legislative Priorities 2023

- **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (S. 131/H.R. 618)**
- **Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act (S. 260/HR 704)**
- **Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act**
- **ACO Assignment Improvement Act**

## Look Ahead

- **Showdown over federal spending**
- **Long-term desire to increase solvency of the Medicare Program**
- **Desire for more transparency and competition**
- **Bipartisan support for legislation to address mental health and overdose crises**
- **Effort to address healthcare workforce shortage**

# Top AAPA Federal Agency Priorities

## Federal Health Programs (Medicare and Medicaid)

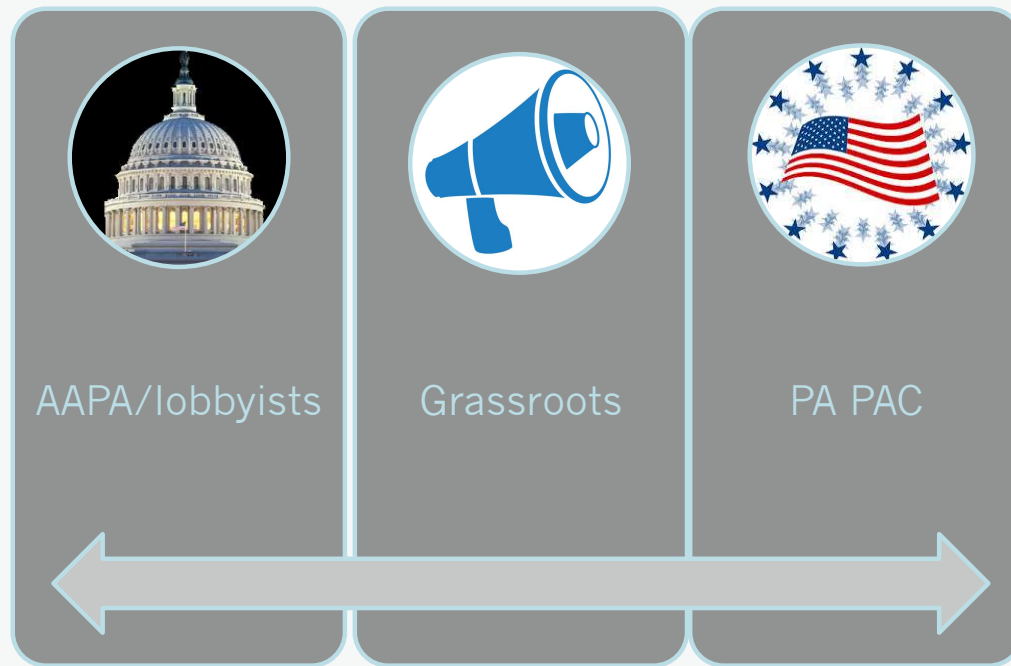
- **AAPA Reimbursement Team and Federal Advocacy work to remove barriers within federal health coverage programs**

## PAs in Federal Service

- **Work to maximize the ability of patients to receive quality, affordable health care provided by PA at federal health facilities, and remove Agency practices that hinder PA recruitment, retention, and practice environment**
- **Work with PAs in Federal Service and Federal Agencies to Modernize PA practice to align with Optimal Team Practice**

# Federal Advocacy

**Audience: Congress, Administration**



# **Advocacy: The BIG question**

**Why should PAs and students  
become advocates for the  
profession?**

## 4 Common Myths About Advocacy

- Advocacy takes time – and I have none.
- I'm not really into politics; I could never talk to a legislator.
- My legislator's political views are completely opposite of mine.
- Isn't that why I pay AAPA/CO dues – to advocate *for me*?



# The Big 3: Why PAs Must be Advocates

- If not you, then who? The only people who will speak up for PAs...are PAs.
- You make it local, personal, and relevant.
- Members of Congress know very little....about a whole lot of issues. So, who's the expert? [hint...:]



“If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?”

In-Person Issue Visits  
from Constituents

54%

Visit From a Lobbyist

8%

■ A Lot of Positive Influence



# How Do We Cut Through the Advocacy Noise?

## ***RELATIONSHIPS***



## 5 Easy Ways to Start Building Advocacy Relationships

- Learn who your legislators are
- Learn PA priority issues ([www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org), your state PA chapter web page)
- Arrange a meeting
- Send an email
- Donate to PA PAC

## **Taking Advocacy to the Next Level**

- **Visit legislator in their district office**
- **Attend a town hall meeting (ID yourself as a PA)**
- **Host a site tour of your facility/practice/program**
- **Share article highlighting local PAs with legislator's office (write it yourself if you have to!)**
- **Invite legislator to attend PA Week activities**
- **Friend on Facebook or Twitter; make productive/positive comments**



**aapa2023**

Dallas County News 9-19-17

## Cindy Axne visits Redfield Medical Clinic

Submitted to DCN

Congresswoman Cindy Axne, the first woman to represent Iowa's 3rd US Congressional District, recently conducted a fact finding visit at the Redfield Medical Clinic. She is committed to keeping medical care in small towns like Redfield (pop. 835) where the PA run federally certified Redfield Rural Health Clinic is the only source of medical care in the town.

Already, she is working on modernizing the Rural Health Clinics (RHC) Act to make medical care more available by allowing advanced practice clinicians like PAs who often staff small town clinics like Redfield to practice at the top of their license and ensure fair reimbursement for free standing Rural Health Clinics.



Pictured are Ed Friedman, PA, left, and Iowa 3rd District Congresswoman Cindy Axne. PHOTO SUBMITTED TO DALLAS COUNTY NEWS



## Habits of Successful Advocates

- **Meet with decision makers in-person**
- **Touch base often (mail, email, fax, phone)**
- **Offer to be a resource at home in the district**
- **Provide meaningful follow-up**
- **Give examples, anecdotes, stories**
- **Identify (and use) commonalities**

## Advocacy Opportunities for PAs

- **Advocacy alerts from AAPA**
- **GAIN, Key Contacts**
- **AAPA's Political Action Committee**
- **Leadership and Advocacy Summit**
- **State Chapter, Specialty Orgs, SIG/Caucus**
- **House of Delegates/Student AOR**
- **PAEA Health Policy Fellowship (students)**



## Questions: Contact AAPA

**AAPA Federal Advocacy**

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