Dear ASCO Advocates:

Thank you for taking the time away from your practice and research to advocate for cancer policy on behalf of ASCO and its members. The united voice of oncology is influential on Capitol Hill and that is a testament to the dedicated efforts of our volunteers. ASCO’s role is to make sure our members can deliver high quality cancer care and conduct research to find new and better treatments. But sometimes policies and resource limitations get in the way. This is where our advocacy can and frequently does make a difference!

Your voice matters! Every ASCO member can be an advocate. Whether you are an early career member in training or an emeritus and regardless of your activities as a community practitioner, an academic investigator, or any other of the myriad roles we play, you can tell our story, explain our point of view, and make a meaningful difference. It is both easy and rewarding to be a part of the policy making process as you connect with your elected officials.

While ASCO has lobbyists advocating for cancer policy priorities on Capitol Hill, studies show that constituents hold the most influence with lawmakers. In fact, personal contact with lawmakers—such as in-person visits, letters, emails, and phone calls—are the most powerful way for you to make an impact.

There are many ways you can get involved and be an advocate for ASCO. As one simple example (that does not require travel nor much time), you can utilize the ACT Network to send messages directly to your Member of Congress on various ASCO legislative issues. This online advocacy tool allows you to send a pre-drafted note on important issues. This guide will serve as a tool to explain other ways to get involved in advocacy.

Many Members of Congress regularly utilize social media to keep their constituents up to speed on what they’re doing. ASCO has also taken to social media to inform our membership of important issues facing cancer care. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to connect with your lawmakers and @ASCO.

Thank you for your interest in ASCO’s advocacy opportunities. ASCO invites you to become a part of its growing advocacy network of cancer care providers throughout the United States, and is prepared to assist you in having your voice heard by Congressional lawmakers.

Nowhere is the story more compelling than in cancer, but we must tell it together if we are to maximize our progress and success.

Sincerely,

Clifford Hudis, MD, FACP, FASCO
ASCO CEO
Dear ASCO Advocates,

As the chair of ASCO’s Government Relations Committee, I thank you for your advocacy efforts on behalf of ASCO and the oncology community.

ASCO’s Government Relations Committee, or GRC, is comprised of 20 members from various practice settings across the country who recommend ASCO’s policy agenda for the year, which includes input from other ASCO committees and is approved by the ASCO Board of Directors. These Policy Priorities guide ASCO’s advocacy efforts.

The GRC works with both Congress and the Administration, as well as with State lawmakers, to advance cancer care at both the federal and state level. Advocacy includes building relationships with lawmakers and their staff year-round, at home and in Washington, DC. This entails collaborating with lawmakers and their staff to propose and promote legislation, and, in some cases, to oppose certain legislative efforts that would be harmful to the practice of oncology.

ASCO also encourages you to engage with the Administration to advance the advocacy portfolio, often through the work of the GRC. When meeting with leaders of federal agencies, the GRC often discusses implementation of laws and regulations, as well as how they develop pilot programs, such as the Oncology Care Model (OCM). We must partner with agencies such as HHS, CMS, NIH, NCI, FDA and others to advance the practice of oncology and the research that leads to cures.

Thank you for your interest in ASCO’s advocacy opportunities. ASCO invites you to become a part of its growing advocacy network of cancer care providers, and is prepared to assist you in having your voice heard by Congressional lawmakers, federal regulators, and your state legislature.

Sincerely,

Blase Polite, MD, MPP
Chair
ASCO Government Relations Committee
ASCO’s Advocacy Opportunities

Getting involved is easy!

Opportunities range from online communication to in-person meetings. Our most influential advocates are recognized for their outstanding efforts at the end of this guide. These advocates participate in ACT Network campaigns, sending messages to Congress. They communicate with their lawmakers via email, in-person on Capitol Hill and at home in the congressional district. They invite their lawmakers into their practices for site visits and tours. Some even engage in state legislative advocacy efforts, testifying before their state legislatures and advocating at the local level.

Who are Grassroots Advocates?
- Serve as the voice on the ground.
- Leverage their personal connections with lawmakers to share data impacting cancer policy locally and nationally.
- Regularly connect and provide feedback to ASCO staff.

Who are Grasstops Advocates?
- Advocates who regularly go above and beyond by participating in every opportunity.
- Leaders in advocacy, who not only participate, but encourage colleagues to do so.
- Members who deepen the impact of standard grassroots activities by multiplying the participation through their networks.

Spectrum of Grassroots Activity

- Join online grassroots campaigns through the ACT Network
- Come to Washington, DC, to meet with decision-makers (Agency and Capitol Hill)
- Participate in in-district meetings with lawmakers
- Host a site visit
- Become involved in state legislative and policy efforts
- Become involved in state legislative and policy efforts

From left: Dr. Marilyn Heine, Dr. Julie Vose, Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA-8)
Visit Your Legislators

ASCO makes it simple!

Meeting with Your Lawmakers on Capitol Hill
Congressional meetings are a unique opportunity to shape cancer care policy and to develop ongoing relationships with key contacts on Capitol Hill.

Personal meetings with Members of Congress are one of the most effective ways to advocate on behalf of your patients and your oncology practice. You are the expert, and lawmakers and their staff want to understand the realities of delivering cancer care in today’s challenging healthcare delivery system. They need to know what you think is necessary to ensure high-quality cancer care.

When you have a scheduled appointment with a Congressional office in Washington, DC, you must first pass through security as you enter either a House or Senate office building.

You may meet in a variety of settings, including the Member’s personal office, the building’s cafeteria, and walking down the halls of the House or Senate buildings. This can happen if a Member has been called to a vote or if space in the office is already in use. Regardless of the location, Members are eager to hear from you as their constituent.

Meeting with Congressional Staff
As you might imagine, getting on the schedule and meeting directly with a Senator or Representative is not as likely as meeting with a Member’s staff. Congressional staff are key advisors on the political and policy agendas of Members. Staff assist in choosing which issues rise to the top of the Member’s desk and can have a great impact on the outcome of certain issues.

While each Member of Congress structures their offices differently, they all have Schedulers or Executive Assistants, Legislative Correspondents who respond to mail, Legislative Assistants who handle a portfolio of policy issues, and Legislative Directors and Chiefs of Staff who are the most senior advisors to lawmakers. You will be greeted at each office by the Member’s Staff Assistant, who may well be the Member’s Chief of Staff in 5 years.

Some Congressional staff may already be well-informed; others may need your help to understand the issue. This is an excellent opportunity for you as the background you provide can help determine their views. Talking points, policy one-pagers and other pre-meeting preparation provided by ASCO staff will help inform your conversations.

Some staff may be very inquisitive, asking many detailed questions so they can share information with their boss that will help shape the Member’s position on a particular issue. Some of the best and most productive meetings include many questions. Don’t worry if you are unable to answer some questions. Let the staff member know that you will follow-up with the requested information.

ASCO staff can assist you in providing responses or background information and are always happy to help follow up after the meeting. You’ll “leave behind” a folder containing ASCO’s policy positions and other relevant meeting materials with the staffer.

Strategies for Successful Meetings
Be friendly. Be prepared, ASCO is always happy to provide you with the materials you might need for a meeting. Be on time, but flexible; Congressional schedules are usually very busy and can change at any time. On that note, be brief and concise. Be respectful. Offer to be a resource. Wear comfortable dress shoes - there is often a bit of walking to do on Capitol Hill. Remember to bring and be sure to exchange business cards. And of course, follow-up with a thank you note!

Policy Library: www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/policies-positions-guidance/policy-statements
Connect with Your Lawmakers Virtually

There are many ways you can get involved and be an advocate for ASCO from your desk! One way is to use the ACT Network to send messages directly to your Member of Congress on various ASCO legislative issues. This online advocacy tool takes practically no time to send a pre-drafted note on important issues. Your personal outreach as a constituent is the most successful way to influence Members of Congress.

www.asco.org/ACTNetwork
Interact with Legislators on Social Media

Many Members of Congress have become avid social media users as a way to stay connected with constituents. Likewise, ASCO’s use of social media has increased and is a great way to inform members about important issues.

Social media has radically increased the number of venues and opportunities constituents have to communicate with lawmakers. Legislators continue to rely on traditional means such as their own websites and email, but have begun using blogs, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook to be more accessible to those who elect them. Additionally, electronic communications are less expensive than sending postal mail, and allow legislators to respond much more quickly.

Finally, social media allows you to break down barriers while communicating with Congress. Legislators need to hear from constituents - the people that live in their district, vote for them and keep them in office. Social media allows you to communicate through Twitter and Facebook with a legislator in a position of leadership, or who has jurisdiction over a key health committee.

Join us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to connect with your lawmakers and @ASCO.
Learn About the Legislative Process

Many of us learned how Congress operates in a high school civics class, but before doing direct advocacy, a quick refresher may be helpful.

Congress is comprised of the United States House of Representatives and Senate. There are 435 U.S. Representatives and 100 U.S. Senators. Committees drive the policymaking and legislation development process for each chamber. Key House Committees that deal with cancer-related policy include: Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Appropriations. Key Senate Committees include: Finance, The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions or HELP Committee, and Appropriations. The Appropriations Committees are charged with allocating federal funding to various federal programs and agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The authorizing committees are in charge of “authorizing” or creating policy and programs through legislation. In the House they include Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce committees; and in the Senate, the Finance and HELP committees.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

All laws in the United States begin as bills. Before any bill becomes a law, the legislation must be approved by the appropriate authorizing committees, by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, and then finally approved and signed by the President. Let’s follow a bill’s journey to become law. Laws begin as ideas. These ideas may come from a Member of Congress—or from a citizen like you. Citizens who have ideas for laws can contact their Member of Congress to discuss their ideas. If the Member of Congress agrees, they research the ideas and write them into bills.

1. The Bill Is Proposed
   Once a Member of Congress has written a bill, it can be introduced. The Member of Congress talks with other members about the bill in hopes of getting their support for it as a cosponsor.

2. The Bill Is Introduced
   In the U.S. House of Representatives, a bill is introduced when it is placed in the hopper—a special box on the side of the clerk’s desk. Only Representatives can introduce bills in the U.S. House of Representatives.

   When a bill is introduced, a bill clerk assigns a number that begins with H.R. A reading clerk then reads the bill to all the Representatives, and the Speaker of the House sends the bill to one of the House Committees with jurisdiction over the policy area.

3. The Bill Goes to Committee
   When the bill reaches committee, the committee members—groups of Representatives, representing both Republicans and Democrats, who are experts on topical areas such as agriculture, education, international relations, or health care—review, research, and revise the bill. They then vote on whether or not to send the bill to the House floor for debate and a vote by the entire chamber.

   If the committee members would like more information before deciding if the bill should be sent to the House floor, the bill is sent to a subcommittee. While in subcommittee, the bill is closely examined and expert opinions are gathered before it is sent back to the committee for approval.
4. The Bill Is Reported
When the committee has approved a bill, it is sent—or reported—to the House floor. Once reported, a bill is ready to be debated by the U.S. House of Representatives.

5. The Bill Is Debated
When a bill is debated, Representatives discuss the bill and explain why they agree or disagree with it. Then, a reading clerk reads the bill section by section and the Representatives recommend changes, called “amendments.” When all changes have been made, the bill is ready to be voted on.

6. The Bill Is Voted On
There are three methods for voting on a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives:

1. **Viva Voce (voice vote):** The Speaker of the House asks the Representatives who support the bill to say “aye” and those that oppose it say “no.”

2. **Division:** The Speaker of the House asks those Representatives who support the bill to stand up and be counted, and then those who oppose the bill to stand up and be counted.

3. **Recorded:** Representatives record their vote using the electronic voting system. Representatives can vote yes, no, or present (if they don’t want to vote on the bill).

   If a majority of the Representatives say or select yes, the bill passes the House. The bill is then certified by the Clerk of the House and delivered to the U.S. Senate.

7. The Bill Is Referred to the Senate
When a bill reaches the U.S. Senate, it goes through many of the same steps it went through in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is discussed in a Senate committee and then reported to the Senate floor to be voted on.

   There are some differences: Senate bills start with an “S.” rather than “H.R.”; the Senate has different rules and can move bills through its process differently. For example, the “filibuster,” a tactic used in the Senate to intentionally delay a vote, is unique to the Senate. Once a bill passes the Senate it must move to the House for consideration.

8. The Bills Are Reconciled, If Necessary
Should the House and Senate pass different versions of legislation with the same underlying policy goals, a conference committee may be established. Composed of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Conference Committee is charged with resolving the differences between the two bills. Conference Committees must negotiate a compromise bill that will be voted upon by both Chambers of Congress. This is because both houses of Congress must pass identical legislation for the bill to become law, according to the U.S. Constitution.

9. The Bill Is Sent to the President
When a bill reaches the President, he has three choices. He can:

   1. Sign and pass the bill—the bill becomes a law.
   2. Refuse to sign, or veto, the bill—the bill is sent back to Congress, along with the President’s reasons for the veto. If the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate still believe the bill should become a law, they can hold another vote on the bill. If two-thirds of the Representatives and Senators support the bill, the President’s veto is overridden and the bill becomes a law.
   3. Do nothing (pocket veto)—if Congress is in session, the bill automatically becomes law after 10 days. If Congress is not in session, the bill does not become a law.

10. The Bill Is a Law
If a bill has passed in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and has been approved by the President, or if a presidential veto has been overridden, the bill becomes a law and is enforced by the government.

Source: congress.gov
ASCO’s Advocacy at Home Program

Year Round Advocacy

Advocacy shouldn’t be something that you do only when you’re in Washington, DC. Continuing your advocacy efforts at home truly makes all the difference.

Meet the local staff. While each Member of Congress has many people working for them in Washington, D.C. they also have local staff in their district offices. Chances are, there is an office near you. Locate the closest office and schedule a visit. Get to know the staff; they have a direct line to the Member. ASCO is always here to help set up a meeting.

Make a phone call. When unable to meet with the Member or staff, a phone call may be the most effective alternative. It never hurts to pick up the phone and call the local office to let them know about progress on a bill or to ask for support. Reaffirm your commitment to serve as a resource on cancer issues.

Write a letter to the editor. When cancer policy is in the news, take the opportunity to write a letter to the editor of a local publication. ASCO provides letters to the editor that can be tailored for advocates. Tell the readership that you went to Washington, D.C. to advocate for this very cause, and describe the issue. Urge readers to contact their Members and ask for their support on the policy/legislation.

Meeting with your legislators while they are in their home state or district provides the opportunity to make a meaningful connection without having to travel to Washington, D.C.

In-District Meetings: There’s No Place Like Home!

An in-district meeting is one with your legislators while they are in their home state or district. The meeting may take place at the legislator’s district office or at your oncology practice, also called a “site visit.” During a site visit, your legislator and their staff will learn how oncologists utilize the latest treatments and technologies to provide high quality care.

Some of the best meetings with Members of Congress occur when they are back at home. When Congress is adjourned in Washington, D.C., and Members are back in their home districts or states, this is called “recess” and it is a great time to visit with your legislator: to begin to build a relationship with their office or to maintain contact and serve as a continued resource on cancer care.

Tips for a Meeting at the Legislator’s Office:
- Use talking points to make your case.
- Solicit the Member’s view of the issue(s), talk about merits.
- Let the Member know how the issue affects his or her constituents. In the case of cancer care, it is important to note how the issue affects the people with cancer you are treating.
- Be clear about what you are asking the Member to do, if anything.

Closing the Meeting:
- Thank them for their time.
- Give Member or staff person one “leave behind” folder.
- Take pictures if possible.

Follow-up After the Meeting:
- Follow-up with the office with a thank you email, and offer to be a resource for any issue related to oncology. Be sure to tell ASCO how the meeting went by completing the meeting feedback form or survey.

Guidelines for Congressional Meetings in the District

Prior to the Meeting:
- Prepare for the visit. ASCO can provide talking points you may wish to convey during the visit; think about how to best make those points. Send background material on those issues to the legislator’s office in advance of the meeting.
Guidelines for Site Visits:

During a visit at your practice, your legislator will learn first-hand how cancer patients receive care from their oncology care team, how oncologists utilize the latest treatments and technologies to provide high quality care and how data is used to improve the care provided. Most importantly, legislators and their staff will have the opportunity to see the commitment and compassion that the oncology care team gives to cancer patients every day.

- Focus on the two or three most important issues that affect your facility/practice and your patients or staff. Remember to make your explanations personal and demonstrate how a positive or negative result will affect your ability to deliver quality cancer care.
- Introduce the members of your staff and explain what they do. If any staff member has specialized training, highlight that with the legislator and explain how that training is critical to delivering quality care.
- Show the legislator/staff person the specialized equipment in your office and explain how that equipment is used and how it contributes to the development or delivery of chemotherapy.
- Answer questions. If you don’t know an answer, offer to follow up with the district office. Offer ASCO as a resource for policy questions.

LOCATION: A legislator site visit can be hosted wherever you practice, such as academic settings, hospitals, clinics and private practices.

OBJECTIVE: It is important that legislators understand the impact their decisions have on cancer patients and the oncology care team. This can be done by briefly explaining how proposed policy may impact the day-to-day operations of the clinic. ASCO will provide you with an overview of the current issues and what the cancer community is doing to address them.

KEEP IT SIMPLE: When explaining how care is delivered, it is important to avoid using a lot of clinical terms and remain aware of the legislator’s time scheduled for the session.

FOLLOW UP: Following up is critical to establishing the relationship and ensuring your message is heard. You should always send thank you letters to legislators who participated in the program. ASCO staff can provide draft language for you to personalize.

Sample Agenda for a Site Visit

A. Welcome and Introductions: Briefly describe your team members’ responsibilities. 5 minutes

B. Overview: Give a brief explanation of technology, business operations and quality improvement tools and why they are important to delivering care. 10 minutes

C. Tour: 30 minutes

D. Open Discussion: The host should open the discussion and encourage questions. 15 minutes

E. Conclusion: Thank attendees and take a group photo. 10 minutes

ASCO Staff Support

ASCO staff will be there to help you every step of the way. You will be able to design the program to fit your needs; the times listed above are simply examples. If you are interested in participating in this exciting program, please contact ASCO staff at grassroots@asco.org. ASCO staff will work with you to determine whom you would like to meet with and a timeline for correspondence and follow up will be established in order to maximize participation.
ASCO’s State Level Advocacy

ASCO’s State Affiliate Council serves as an advisory group to the ASCO Board of Directors on issues relating to domestic membership. The Council is composed of physician leaders and executive staff from ASCO’s 48 Affiliates. Historically, ASCO has assisted the State Affiliates on state legislative and regulatory issues on an ad-hoc basis. In recent years, however, legislative and regulatory activity at the state-level has dramatically shaped cancer care and the practice of oncology, making it clear that ASCO and the State Affiliates must increasingly partner in state-level advocacy as the voice for oncology.

Policy enacted in one state does not only impact cancer care and oncology practice in that particular state. It creates a model that policymakers in other states pursue. The states are also an incubator for federal policymaking.

Each state government is unique. As with the federal government, most states have a bicameral legislature with a House and Senate (except Nebraska). Unlike federal policymakers, however, state legislators usually have another full-time job. Typically state legislative sessions begin in January and wrap up by the end of the summer. Action occurs very rapidly. A state bill could be introduced one day, move through committees the next, and pass on the floor within days.

While ASCO uses a tracking service to monitor state bills and regulations on priority issues, ASCO relies heavily on the State Affiliates and grassroots members to be the eyes and ears on state and local issues that will impact cancer care and the practice of oncology.

ASCO has tools and resources to assist the State Affiliates and grassroots members with state-level advocacy initiatives, similar to the tools and resources provided for federal advocacy. The active participation of cancer care professionals in state and local advocacy is crucial. Through local meetings, letters, and calls to state policymakers, as well as in-person testimony at state hearings, cancer care providers can make a meaningful difference in policy that will impact cancer patients and providers for years to come.
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is grassroots advocacy effective?
Yes! While the federal legislative process is notorious for being slow-moving, the most effective way to advance legislative goals is through grassroots advocacy. Thousands of bills are introduced in Congress every session, but only a select few become law. Often, it takes years to build enough support to move a bill through Congress. Participating in grassroots activities ensures that ASCO has the ability to successfully share the specialty’s priorities with key Members of Congress.

2. My legislators have not been supportive of ASCO’s positions in the past – should I still reach out to them?
ASCO always encourages its members to meet with their legislators. While public officials might not agree with all of ASCO’s legislative priorities, there may be some common ground. It is especially important for Members who might not agree with one of ASCO’s legislative priorities to hear from their constituents on why it is important. You never know, you might help reshape your Member’s stance on that issue. If you have had a notably negative experience with a particular legislator and/or their staff, please contact ASCO staff.

3. My legislator is a member of a political party that I do not support – why should I engage him/her via grassroots advocacy?
When participating in ASCO grassroots activity, it may help to remember you are advocating on behalf of the specialty. While your legislator may have opposing political views, he or she may support ASCO legislative priorities. ASCO members are encouraged to advocate on a bipartisan basis. This is critical because the political winds shift often in Washington, DC, and it is important to have friends on both sides of the aisle. The party in power has the potential to switch every election cycle.

4. I’m interested in participating in ASCO advocacy efforts, but am nervous about attending meetings solo. Are there other ASCO Advocates in my area that are active?
ASCO encourages members new to advocacy to reach out to their colleagues with more experience. If you are unaware of other ASCO grassroots participants in your home state, please contact ASCO staff for a list of experienced advocates willing to provide insight.

5. How do I get started with ASCO advocacy opportunities?
ASCO staff are here to help you pursue advocacy, at home or in Washington, DC. If you have specific questions about how to begin, please contact us at grassroots@asco.org.

6. How do I learn more about my State Affiliate?
For more information about ASCO’s State Affiliates please visit us at www.asco.org/about-asco or contact us at stateaffiliates@asco.org.
Additional Resources

Advocacy Toolkit:
- Click through www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/advocacy-center/ascos-advocacy-toolkit to explore our online advocacy resources, including our Advocacy 101 Webinar.

ACT Network: www.asco.org/actnetwork
- The ACT Network makes it easy for ASCO members to contact their lawmakers.
- Contains draft messages you can personalize and send instantly.
- Lists bills ASCO supports and opposes.

ASCO in Action: www.asco.org/asco-in-action
- Features breaking ASCO policy news, statements and press releases.
# Glossary of Terms

Glossary adapted from “Congress at Your Fingertips,” copyright 2013, CQ-Roll Call, Inc. Publishing: Newington, VA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT</strong></td>
<td>Legislation that has passed both Houses of Congress and becomes law</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AMENDMENT</strong></td>
<td>A change in a bill or document by adding, substituting or omitting portions of it</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APPROPRIATIONS BILL</strong></td>
<td>Legislation that provides funds for authorized programs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUTHORIZATION BILL</strong></td>
<td>Legislation establishing a program and setting funding limits</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BILL</strong></td>
<td>Legislation introduced in either the House or Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUDGET RESOLUTION</strong></td>
<td>Concurrent resolution that establishes spending and revenue targets for the upcoming fiscal year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHAMBER</strong></td>
<td>Place where the entire House or Senate meets to conduct business; also, the House of Representatives or the Senate itself</td>
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<td><strong>CLOTURE</strong></td>
<td>Method of limiting debate or ending a filibuster in the Senate. At least 60 Senators must vote in favor before cloture can be invoked</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>A group of legislators assigned to give special consideration to certain bills</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONFERENCE COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Meeting between representatives and senators to resolve differences when two versions of a similar bill have been passed by the House and Senate.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONTINUING RESOLUTION</strong></td>
<td>A joint resolution to appropriate funds, usually for a short period of time and often in the absence of a regular appropriations bill</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COSPONSOR</strong></td>
<td>Legislator who joins in sponsoring legislation but who is not the principal sponsor or the one who introduced the legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FILIBUSTER</strong></td>
<td>Tactic used in the Senate whereby a minority intentionally delays a vote</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAME DUCK</strong></td>
<td>Senator or representative (or the president) who has not been reelected but whose term has not yet expired</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LOBBYING</strong></td>
<td>The process of attempting to influence the passage, defeat or content of legislation by individuals or a group other than legislators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAJORITY LEADER</strong></td>
<td>Chief spokesman and strategist for the majority party, elected by members of the majority party. In the House, the majority leader is the second-ranking lawmaker, behind the Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MINORITY LEADER</strong></td>
<td>Chief spokesman and strategist for the minority party, elected by members of the minority party</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OMNIBUS BILL</strong></td>
<td>Bill regarding a single subject that combines many different aspects of that subject</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QUORUM</strong></td>
<td>The number of senators or representatives who must be present before a legislative body can conduct official business</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RANKING MEMBERS</strong></td>
<td>The members of the majority and minority party on a committee; next in seniority after the chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEQUESTRATION</strong></td>
<td>The permanent cancellation of budgetary resources by a uniform percentage, applied to all programs, projects and activities within a budget account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPEAKER</strong></td>
<td>The presiding officer of the House, elected by members of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPONSOR</strong></td>
<td>The representative or senator who introduces a measure</td>
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Advocate of the Year: Heather Hylton, MS, PA-C

As a member of the GRC, Heather consistently participated in all facets of ASCO advocacy – from visits on Capitol Hill with lawmakers and regulatory agencies to engaging with district staff at home in New York. An active user of the ACT Network, Heather ensured that her lawmakers were always up to date regarding issues in cancer policy.

Heather is the Lead Physician Assistant, Department of Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Since joining Memorial Sloan Kettering in the spring of 2012, she has taken on clinical and administrative responsibilities. In her role on the inpatient Bone Marrow Transplant service, she cares for people who are undergoing a bone marrow or stem cell transplant as part of their cancer treatment. As an administrator, she manages the physician assistants in the Department of Medicine and collaborates with nursing leadership to recruit and retain advanced practice provider staff.

President’s Circle
Eric Dobson, MD
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James Frame, MD, FACP
Denis Hammond, MD, FASCO
Clifford Hudis, MD, FACP, FASCO
Heather Hylton, MS, PA-C
Holavanahalli Keshava-Prasad, MD, FRCP, FRCPPath
Mary Klix, MD

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Michelle Paterson

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In order to qualify as an Advocacy Champion, one must participate in a variety of ASCO advocacy opportunities based on criteria determined by ASCO’s Government Relations Committee and approved by the ASCO Board.
The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world’s leading professional society of multidisciplinary professions who treat people with cancer. For 50 years, ASCO has been the leading advocate for quality treatment and services for cancer patients and an authoritative source for reliable information on cancer care issues. ASCO has over 40,000 professional members worldwide, including: clinical oncologists representing all oncology disciplines and subspecialties; physicians and health care professionals participating in approved oncology training programs; oncology nurses; other health care practitioners with a predominant interest in oncology.

Our Mission
Conquering cancer through research, education, and promotion of the highest quality patient care.

Our Vision:
A world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy.

Contact us:
For more information, contact ASCO’s Cancer Policy and Advocacy Department at 571-483-1670 or by email at grassroots@asco.org