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Mastering Advocacy: Empowering the Therapy Industry Through Congressional Engagement

Speakers:

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Housekeeping Reminders

- All attendees are on mute
- Handouts were provided in the reminder email for this webinar sent 1 hour ago
- **Questions for Speakers:** submit them using the Q&A button on the attendee control panel
- **Technical Questions:** submit them using the Chat button on the attendee control panel
- **Recording:** will be posted for NARA Members on the Portal within 24 hours

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Disclaimer

The information shared in today's presentation is shared in good faith and for general information purposes only. It is accurate as of the date and time of this presentation.

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NARA Government Affairs Committee



Jessica Beaudry,
Vertis Therapy



Lisa Chambers,
Blue Sky Therapy



Kathleen Dwyer,
Legacy Healthcare
Services



Chairperson:
Sabrena McCarley,
Transitional Care
Management

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NARA Advocacy Resources

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

Advocacy In the Workplace
Your Voice Matters!

The thought of becoming an advocate may be a bit daunting to you at first but the truth is, you may already be an advocate and not even know it! According to Merriam-Webster dictionary advocacy is: *The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal; the act or process of advocating.* You are a subject matter expert when it comes to...

Advocacy In the Workplace
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You are a subject matter expert when it comes to talking about and advocating for your profession, your industry/your practice setting and most importantly your patients. The personalized stories that you can provide about your patients and/or your organizational impact is an important piece of advocating for your patients, your profession, and the industry. The personalized touch is impactful when it comes to advocacy.

Elected officials work for their constituents and it is imperative they hear from those they are elected to represent on issues such as access to care and reimbursement challenges and much more.

<https://www.naranet.org/advocacy/advocacy-resources>

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Advocacy

- Merriam-Webster dictionary defines advocacy as *The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal: the act or process of advocating.*
- You are a subject matter expert when it comes to talking about and advocating for your profession, your industry/your practice setting and most importantly your patients.
 - Elected officials work for their constituents and it is imperative that they hear from those that they are elected to represent on issues such as access to care and reimbursement challenges and much more.

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Getting to know the 3 types of advocacy:

- **Self-advocacy:**
 - *speaking for yourself and knowing what is important to you.*
- **Individual advocacy:**
 - *when a person or group of people/an organization focuses on the interests of one or a few individuals. Individual advocacy can be either informal or formal.*
- **Systems advocacy:**
 - *focuses on change at the local, state, and national levels to impact change within public policy.*

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6 principles of advocacy:

- 1. Honesty:**
 - *implies a refusal to lie, steal, or deceive in any way.*
- 2. Fairness:**
 - *the quality or state of being fair.*
- 3. Respect:**
 - *a relation or reference to a particular thing or situation.*
- 4. Compassion:**
 - *sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.*
- 5. Integrity:**
 - *firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values.*
- 6. Self-Discipline:**
 - *correction or regulation of oneself for the sake of improvement.*

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LOCATING YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS



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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators

Congress.gov allows you to locate your elected Representatives and Senators

1. Go to: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>
2. Input your zip code to find your elected Representatives and Senators *(you can also input the zip code of your healthcare facility or clinic)*


Find Your Members

Find your member by address:

Already know your member? Find your member on a list to view their contact information.

[Representatives >>](#)
[Senators >>](#)

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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators

3. A list of your possible members will generate.
 - You can also enter your street address for an exact district.


Your Possible Members

Enter street address for exact district:



- 1 **Senator Butler, Laphoncia R.**
State: California
Party: Democratic
Served: Senate: 2023-Present
Contact: 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5841
[Contact](#)
- 2 **Representative Garamendi, John**
State: California
Party: Democratic
Served: House: 2009-Present
Contact: 2006 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-1880
[Contact](#)
- 3 **Senator Padilla, Alex**
State: California
Party: Democratic
Served: Senate: 2021-Present
Contact: 301 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
[Contact](#)
- 4 **Representative Thompson, Mike**
State: California
Party: Democratic
Served: House: 1999-Present
Contact: 208 Cannon House Office Building
(202) 225-3311
[Contact](#)

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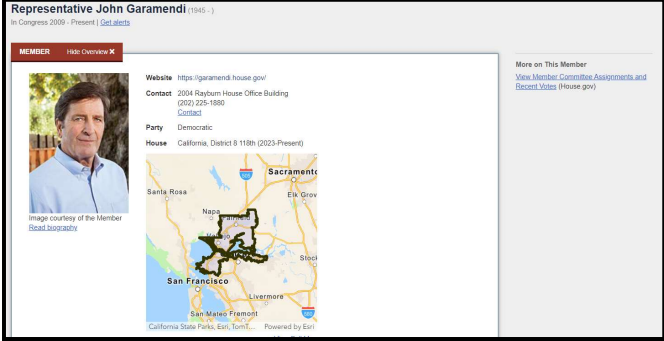


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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators

4. Click on a member's name and it will take you to their information page.



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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators

5. Click on the website link
 - *(it is important to note that not all websites are designed the same)*





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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators

6. Click on Contact Tab → Newsletter Subscription

The screenshot shows the NARA website navigation menu. The 'Contact' tab is selected, and the 'Newsletter Subscription' option is highlighted with a blue arrow. Other menu items include 'About', 'Legislative Work', 'Media', 'How Can I Help', 'Email Congressman Garamendi', 'Newsletter Unsubscribe', 'Offices', 'Request An Appearance', and 'Website Problem'. Social media icons for X, Facebook, and Instagram are visible in the top right of the navigation bar.

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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators

7. Complete the Newsletter Subscription Form

The screenshot shows the 'Newsletter Subscription' form. The form title is 'Newsletter Subscription'. Below the title, there is a note: '* Indicates required field'. A paragraph of text reads: 'Please sign up here to receive email newsletter updates from Congressman Garamendi. You may cancel or unsubscribe at any time.' The form contains three input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', and 'Email', each with an asterisk indicating it is a required field. A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom left of the form area.

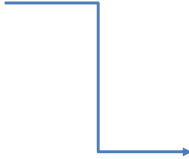
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Locating Your Elected Representatives and Senators


8. You can also click on additional contact options



Contact


- Email Congressman Garamendi
- [Newsletter Subscription](#)
- Newsletter Unsubscribe
- Offices
- Request an Appearance
- Website Problem

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SCHEDULING MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF CONFERENCE & INVITING ELECTED OFFICIALS TO YOUR FACILITY OR CLINIC



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Scheduling Meetings


- Each legislator has a website with a direct link to schedule a meeting and to invite them to an event (such as inviting them to your facility)
 - *You can request a meeting with legislators who represent the district that you live in or who represents the district that you have business in*

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The screenshot shows the website for Mike Thompson, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The page title is "Scheduling Meetings". A blue arrow points from the title to the "Schedule A Meeting" button in the navigation menu. Another blue arrow points from the title to the "Send Me An Email" button in the contact section. The contact section includes a form with a "Submit" button and a note: "I value all feedback from residents of my district. Please enter your zip code below to continue:". The form fields are "Zip:" followed by a text input, "+4:" followed by a text input, and a "Submit" button.

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Scheduling Meetings

Write Your Rep

Write Your Representative

Required fields are followed by *.

Your Information

Prefix *
[M.]

First Name *
[]


Last Name *
[]

Street Address *
[]

City *
[]

State *
[CA]

Zip *
[]



UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN
Mike THOMPSON
Representing California's Fifth District

Email *
[]

Yes, I would like to subscribe to your newsletter.

Your Message

Yes, I would like a response.

No, I just want you to know my thoughts.


Select the issue your email relates to:
[]

Subject *
[]


Comment *
[]

Utilize the comment box to request specific date(s) and time(s) for a meeting and to provide specific information about why you are requesting a meeting.

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Invite To An Event

Event Request

Complete and submit this form to request my appearance at a speaking or non-speaking function. Due to scheduling demands, not all requests may be filled.

**Please note due to current public health concerns surrounding the coronavirus, Congressman Thompson and his staff are conducting "no contact" meetings. In an abundance of caution, we are also asking people to stay home if they are sick. If you are sick and it's an urgent matter, we are happy to schedule a phone meeting.

Required fields are followed by *.

Your Contact Information


Prefix
[]

First Name *
[]

Last Name *
[]

Suffix
[]

Email Address *
[]




REP. SCOTT PETER
San Diego | Coronado | Powe

ABOUT CONTACT HELPING YOU MEDIA CENTER LEGISLATIO

- Email Me
- Stay Updated
- Offices
- Invite Me To Speak
- Request A Meeting
- Website Problem

If an option, you can utilize the comment box to request specific date(s) and time(s) for a facility visit and to provide specific information about your facility and why you are requesting a visit.


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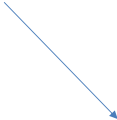
3 Branches of Government



Legislative




Executive




Judicial

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Legislative

The legislative branch is made up of the House and Senate, known collectively as the Congress.

The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.

The House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. In addition, there are 6 non-voting members, representing the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and four other territories of the United States: American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

The presiding officer of the chamber is the Speaker of the House, elected by the Representatives.

The Speaker of the House is third in the line of succession to the Presidency.

Members of the House are elected every two years and must be 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state (but not necessarily the district) they represent.

The House has several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal officials, and elect the President in the case of an Electoral College tie.

The Senate is composed of 100 Senators, 2 for each state. Senators are elected to six-year terms by the people of each state.

Senators' terms are staggered so that about one-third of the Senate is up for reelection every two years.

Senators must be 30 years of age, U.S. citizens for at least nine years, and residents of the state they represent.


The Vice President of the United States serves as President of the Senate and may cast the decisive vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

The Senate has the sole power to confirm those of the President's appointments that require consent, and to provide advice and consent to ratify treaties. There are, however, two exceptions to this rule: The House must also approve appointments to the Vice Presidency and any treaty that involves foreign trade.


The Senate also tries impeachment cases for federal officials referred to it by the House.

In order to pass legislation and send it to the President for his or her signature, both the House and the Senate must pass the same bill by majority vote. If the President vetoes a bill, they may override his veto by passing the bill again in each chamber with at least two-thirds of each body voting in favor.

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Executive

The executive branch consists of the President, his or her advisors and various departments and agencies.

The Executive Branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also acts as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.


The President is responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws written by Congress and, to that end, appoints the heads of the federal agencies, including the Cabinet.

The Vice President is also part of the Executive Branch, ready to assume the Presidency should the need arise.


The Cabinet and independent federal agencies are responsible for the day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws.

Including members of the armed forces, the Executive Branch employs more than 4 million Americans.

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Judicial

The judicial branch consists of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Federal Judicial Center.

Members of the Judicial Branch are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the land and the only part of the federal judiciary specifically required by the Constitution.

All Justices are nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and hold their offices under life tenure.

Federal courts enjoy the sole power to interpret the law, determine the constitutionality of the law, and apply it to individual cases.

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Glossary of Legislative Terms



<https://www.congress.gov/help/legislative-glossary>


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Glossary of Legislative Terms



Glossary of Legislative Terms
A

Action codes

- **Action Codes** identify stages that condense detailed [legislative action steps](#).

Adjourn

- Formally end a meeting of a chamber or committee.

Adjournment sine die

- An adjournment that terminates an annual session of Congress. A "sine die" ("without day") adjournment sets no day for reconvening, so that Congress will not meet again until the first day of the next session. Under the Constitution, adjournment sine die (except when the next session is about to convene) requires the agreement of both chambers, accomplished through adoption of a [concurrent resolution](#), which in current practice also authorizes leaders of either chamber to reconvene its session if circumstances warrant.

Amendment


- A proposed change to a pending text (e.g., a bill, resolution, another amendment, or a treaty [or an associated resolution of ratification]). See also [Proposed/offered Senate amendment](#) and [Submitted Senate amendment](#).

Amendment exchange

- Also referred to as "amendments between the houses" or, colloquially, "ping-pong." A method for reconciling differences between the two chambers' versions of a measure by sending the measure back and forth between them until both have agreed to identical language.

Amendment in the nature of a substitute

- Amendment that seeks to replace the entire text of an underlying measure.



Glossary of Legislative Terms
N

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- After the President signs a bill into law, it is delivered to NARA's Office of the Federal Register where editors assign a [public law number](#).

Nomination

- The president's formal submission of an individual's name, and the federal government position to which he or she is proposed to be appointed, for Senate consideration and potential confirmation.

Notes

- Legislative analysts in the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress may supplement a bill record with a brief note when the title, text, or actions require explanation beyond the information immediately available. Such explanations might alert the user to a text anomaly, note that the bill is a vehicle for a rapidly moving measure, include links to additional documents, or aid in the interpretation of the measure's context.

O

Official title

- A bill's sponsor designates an official title which may be amended in the course of legislative action. Bills may also have [short titles](#). The more complex a bill becomes, the more likely the bill is to acquire additional titles. See also, [popular title](#) and [short title](#).

Ordered reported

- Committee's formal action of agreeing to report a measure or matter to its chamber. See also, [reported](#).

Original bill

- An introduced bill that embodies a text approved in a committee markup but not formally introduced prior to the markup. Senate committees are authorized to report original bills within their jurisdictions in addition to reporting measures that have been introduced and referred to them; some House committees also have authority to originate certain measures. See

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The Legislative Process





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The Legislative Process

- The legislative process begins with an introduction of a bill to Congress.
 - A bill can be written by anyone; however, it is important to note that only members of Congress can introduce legislation.
 - The initial bill can undergo a multitude of changes during the legislative process.
- House (H.R.) vs Senate (S):
 - Senators **CANNOT** cosponsor House (H.R.) bills. They can cosponsor Senate (S.) bills.
 - Representatives **CANNOT** cosponsor Senate bills. They can cosponsor House (H.R.) bills.

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The Legislative Process

- Once the bill is introduced it is then referred to the appropriate committee for review.
 - There are 17 Senate committees, with 70 subcommittees.
 - There are 23 House committees, with 104 subcommittees.
 - House and Senate committees change in number and form with each new Congress.
 - Committees oversee a specific policy area, whereas the subcommittees take on more specialized policy areas.

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The Legislative Process

- A bill is first considered in a subcommittee.
 - In the subcommittee a bill may be accepted, amended, or rejected entirely.
 - If the members of the subcommittee agree to move a bill forward, it is reported to the full committee, where the process is repeated again.
 - Throughout this stage of the process, the committees and subcommittees call hearings to investigate the merits and flaws of the bill.
 - During these hearings they invite experts, advocates, and opponents to appear before the committee and provide testimony, and can compel people to appear using subpoena power if necessary.

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The Legislative Process

- If the full committee votes to approve the bill, it is reported to the floor of the House or Senate, and the majority party leadership decides when to place the bill on the calendar for consideration.
 - If a bill is particularly urgent, then the bill may be considered right away.
 - Other bills may wait for months to be placed on the calendar for consideration or may never be scheduled at all.

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The Legislative Process

- When the bill comes up for consideration-
 - The House has a very structured debate process:
 - Every member who desires to speak only has a few minutes to do so.
 - The number and kind of amendments are usually limited.
 - The Senate debate on most bills is unlimited:
 - Senators may speak to issues other than the bill under consideration during their speeches, and any amendment can be introduced.
 - Senators can use this to filibuster bills under consideration, a procedure by which a Senator delays a vote on a bill — and by extension its passage — by refusing to stand down.
 - A supermajority of 60 Senators can break a filibuster by invoking cloture, or the cession of debate on the bill, and forcing a vote.

Once debate is over, the votes of a simple majority pass the bill.

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The Legislative Process

- A bill must pass both houses of Congress before it goes to the President for consideration.
 - Though the Constitution requires that the two bills have the exact same wording, this rarely happens in practice.
 - In order to bring the bills into alignment, a Conference Committee is convened, consisting of members from both chambers.
 - The members of the committee produce a conference report, intended as the final version of the bill.
 - Each chamber then votes again to approve the conference report.
 - Depending on where the bill originated, the final text is then enrolled by either the Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate, and presented to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate for their signatures.
 - The final step is that the bill is then sent to the President.

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The Legislative Process

- When receiving a bill from Congress, the President has several options.
- If the President signs the bill into law then the bill is then printed in the Statutes at Large.
- If the President veto's the bill then it is sent back to Congress.
 - Congress may override the veto with a two-thirds vote of each chamber, at which point the bill becomes law and is printed.
 - There are two other options that the President may exercise.
 1. If Congress is in session and the President takes no action within 10 days, the bill becomes law.
 2. If Congress adjourns before the 10 days are up and the President takes no action, then the bill dies and Congress may not vote to override.
 - This is called a pocket veto, and if Congress still wants to pass the legislation, they must begin the entire process again.

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Committees of the U.S. Congress

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Committees of the U.S. Congress

House	Senate
Standing Committees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Appropriations • Armed Services • Budget • Education and the Workforce • Energy and Commerce • Ethics • Financial Services • Foreign Affairs • Homeland Security • House Administration • Judiciary • Natural Resources • Oversight and Accountability • Rules • Science, Space, and Technology • Small Business • Transportation and Infrastructure • Veterans' Affairs • Ways and Means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry • Appropriations • Armed Services • Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs • Budget • Commerce, Science, and Transportation • Energy and Natural Resources • Environment and Public Works • Finance • Foreign Relations • Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions • Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs • Judiciary • Rules and Administration • Small Business and Entrepreneurship • Veterans' Affairs

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Committees of the U.S. Congress

House	Senate
Special, Select, and Other Committees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence • Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging (Special) • Caucus on International Narcotics Control • Ethics (Select) • Indian Affairs • Intelligence (Select)
Joint Committees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Committee on Printing • Joint Committee on Taxation • Joint Committee on the Library • Joint Economic Committee 	
Commissions and Caucuses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) • Congressional-Executive Commission on China • Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission • House Democracy Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressional Oversight Commission

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Tracking Legislative Bills

<https://www.congress.gov/help/find-bills-by-subject>

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Find Bills by Subject and Policy Area

- Legislative analysts from the [Congressional Research Service](#) (CRS) closely examine the content of each bill and resolution to assign [Policy Area Terms](#) and [Legislative Subject Terms](#). The [Legislative Indexing Vocabulary \(LIV\)](#) is an older CRS thesaurus that was discontinued in 2008. Terms from all three subject vocabularies can be used to search Congress.gov. Terms assigned to a bill can be seen from the **View subjects** link to the right of each bill’s overview. Terms are assigned to bills and resolutions but not to amendments.

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Find Bills by Subject and Policy Area

CONGRESS.GOV [Advanced Searches](#) [Browse](#) [Search Tools](#) [Support](#) [Sign In](#)

[Legislation](#) [Congressional Record](#) [Committees](#) [Members](#)

Current Congress ▼ Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care" Q

[MORE OPTIONS](#) ▼

[Home](#) > [Help](#) > Find Bills by Subject and Policy Area [Citation](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#) [Site Feedback](#)

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Find Bills by Subject and Policy Area

CONGRESS.GOV Advanced Searches Browse

Current Congress **HR2474** Search Within

Save this Search | Download Results

Refined by: strengthening medicare X Legislation X

1-100 of 19,002 100 per page 1 of 200

Sort by Relevancy View Expanded

BILL
1 **H.R. 2474** — 118th Congress (2023-2024)
Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act
Sponsor: Rep. [Bauer, Bill](#) (R-OH-10) (Introduced 04/03/2023) Cosponsors: (82)
Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means
Latest Action: House - 04/14/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health (All Actions)
Tracker: **Introduced** → Passed House → Passed Senate → To President → Became Law

RESOLUTION
2 **H.Res. 118** — 118th Congress (2023-2024)
Maintaining Medicare
Sponsor: [Van Doren, Beth](#) (R-DC-01) (Introduced 02/09/2023) Cosponsors: (11)
Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce
Latest Action: House - 02/17/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health (All Actions)
Tracker: **Introduced** → Agreed to in House

BILL
3 **S. 1204** — 118th Congress (2023-2024)

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Find Bills by Subject and Policy Area

BILL Hide Overview X

Sponsor: [Rep. Bauer, Bill](#) (R-OH-10) (Introduced 04/03/2023)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 04/14/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health (All Actions)

Tracker: **Introduced** → Passed House → Passed Senate → To President → Became Law

More on This Bill
[Constitutional Authority and State Subject Statements](#)
[CBO Cost Estimates \(0\)](#)

Subject — Policy Area:
Health
[View subjects >](#)

Give Feedback on This Bill
[Contact Your Member](#)

Summary (1) | Text (1) | Actions (4) | Titles (2) | Amendments (0) | Cosponsors (82) | Committees (2) | Related Bills (0)

Summary: H.R. 2474 — 118th Congress (2023-2024) [All Information \(Except Text\)](#)

Listen

There is one summary for H.R. 2474. [Bill summaries](#) are authored by [CBO](#).

Shown Here:
Introduced in House (04/03/2023)
Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act

This bill modifies certain adjustments to payment amounts under the **Medicare** physician fee schedule.

Payment amounts under the **Medicare** physician fee schedule are based on a service's relative value, a conversion factor, and a geographic adjustment factor. Current law provides for separate conversion factors for physicians that are qualifying participants in advanced alternative payment models (also known as qualifying APM participants) and for other physicians beginning in 2026. With an annual update of 0.75% and 0.25%, respectively.

The bill replaces the separate conversion factors for qualifying APM participants and other physicians with a single conversion factor and provides for an update that is equal to the annual percentage increase in the **Medicare** Economic Index, beginning in 2024. (The **Medicare** Economic Index is a specialized index that is generally used to determine allowed charges for physician services based on annual price changes.)

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Summary (1) | Text (1) | **Actions (4)** | Titles (2) | Amendments (3) | Cosponsors (82) | Committees (2) | Related Bills (3)

All Actions: H.R.2474 — 118th Congress (2023-2024) [All Information \(Except Text\)](#)

[Bill History - Congressional Record References](#)

4 results for All Actions | [Contact Your](#) | Sort by: Newest to Oldest

	Date	All Actions
<input type="radio"/>	04/14/2023	Referred to the Subcommittee on Health Action By: Committee on Energy and Commerce
<input type="radio"/>	04/03/2023	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Action By: House of Representatives
<input type="radio"/>	04/03/2023	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Action By: House of Representatives
<input type="radio"/>	04/03/2023	Introduced in House Action By: House of Representatives

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What to Expect....




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Guidelines for Building Long Lasting and Effective Relationships with Elected Officials


DO:

- Prior to your meeting, study the elected official's biography and the committees that they serve on and the issues they support. In addition, research what social media they are on, follow them.
- Be prepared. Know your topic/bills that you will be talking about.
- Bring plenty of business cards.
- Dress appropriately (i.e. business attire and no jeans or t-shirts).
- Arrive 5 to 10 minutes ahead of your scheduled appointment.
- Greet elected officials and their staff as applicable with a firm handshake, have good eye contact, and introduce yourself.
- Designate a lead person if meeting with a group of people to act as the moderator.
- Be polite and courteous.
- Know the specific bill name, bill number, sponsors and co-sponsors and main talking points.
- Be clear and concise and incorporate personal stories and patient stories as able (paint the picture of the impact the topic/bill has on the elected official's constituents).
- Be attentive to the elected official's positions, comments, and questions. It is ok if you do not know the answer to a question at the time of the meeting, it is better to get back to them with the answer than to provide inaccurate information.
- Prepare a packet to leave with your elected official on the topics/bills that you met about.
- Offer to provide any additional information or follow up on any questions they may have.
- Offer to be included as a resource for health care matters for the elected official's office.
- Ensure that you follow up.
 - Get the business card of person you meet with.
 - Ask when a good time would be to follow up.
 - Ask what the best method of communication is for follow up (e-mail, phone, text messaging, etc.).
 - Send a thank you note within 24 hours of your meeting.
 - Email them if there is any progress on the topic/bills that you discussed.

Do NOT:

- Do not get discouraged if your elected official or their staff is late to the meeting.
- Do not get discouraged if you are unable to meet with the elected official and instead you meet with a member of their staff.
 - Staff members have the direct ear of the elected official and building these relationships is just as important as building a relationship with the elected official.
- Do not overstay your welcome.
- Do not assume the elected official knows about physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy.
- Do not assume that the elected official is familiar with the topic/bills that you are going to present on.
- Do not consider your meeting as a one-time event. Advocacy is constant and does not end after one meeting.

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Capture The Moment

- Take a picture
- Share the picture and express your appreciation for the meeting on social media (remember to tag the legislators office and NARA)
- NARA Social Media:
 - Twitter: @rehabassoc
 - LinkedIn: National Association of Rehab Providers and Agencies



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NARA Advocacy At Home

- Invite for a visit!
- Attend an in person or virtual town hall!
- Request a meeting
- Follow on social media
- Email
- Participate /Have patients participate in NARA Calls to Action

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Best Practices for Planning a Legislative Facility Visit

- Decide on a facility and date that you would like to have a legislative visit at least one month in advance.
- Designate a point person to request the legislative facility visit with the elected official's office and to work with the elected official's staff throughout the process (i.e. confirming attendees, time of event, parking, etc.).
- Designate a point person to work with facility staff and rehab staff on the logistics of the day of the event (i.e. who will be leading a facility tour, who will be taking pictures and getting signed consent forms, who will be taking part of the meeting with the legislator and/or staff members, meeting location, food/drinks, etc.).
- Designate a point person to contact NARA (either executive director, president, vice president or Chair of Government Affairs Committee) for any legislative updates and material for leave behinds.
- Designate a point person who will follow-up after the legislative facility visit (answer any outstanding questions, provide additional information, thank you note).




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NARA ADVOCACY IN ACTION

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NARA Connects

- PAC Events & Coalitions of NARA
 - Rep. Jason Smith, Chairman of Ways & Means Committee
 - Rep. Steve Scalise, House Majority Leader
 - Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
 - Senator Katie Britt
 - Senator Joni Ernst
 - Rep. Katherine Clark, House Democratic WHIP
 - Rep. Neal Dunn, Energy and Commerce
 - Senator Bob Casey, Finance Committee
 - Therapy Coalition: APTA, AOTA, ASHA, ACHA, ADVION and APTQI
 - CPR Coalition: Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation
 - ITEM Coalition: Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid

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Bills That Could Impact Your Business

Administrative Burden

- HR 7279 REDUCE ACT Admin Burden for POC certification and recertification requirements
- HR 7148 Medicare Home Health Accessibility Act

Workforce

- HR 3875 Expanded Telehealth Access Act
- HR 4829 The Physical Therapist Workforce & Patient Access Act of 2023
- HR 1617/S 793 Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act

Reimbursement

- HR 2474 - Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act
- HR 6683 – Preserving Seniors Access to Physicians Act of 2023
- HR 4878/S 2459 Amend Supervision Requirement for Outpatient Therapy Services (EMPOWER ACT)
- HR 3875/S 2880 Expanded Telehealth Access Act
- HR 7618 Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly Act
- HR 6545 Physician Fee Schedule Update & Improvements Act
- HR 6371 Provider Reimbursement Stability Act

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Our voices truly are louder when we advocate together!

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ENHANCING PATIENT OUTCOMES AND PAYER NEGOTIATIONS: Strategies for Collecting Data for Rehabilitation Providers	BITS, BYTES, AND REGULATORY INSIGHTS: Navigating Technology and Regulations in Healthcare	
Pre-conference May 7th	Washington D.C.	3-Day Conference May 8th-10th
Join us in DC! CEUs for PT, PTA, OT, OTA, SLP & CHC		
Pre-Conference – May 7, 2024 1:00pm EST		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcomes & Payer Negotiations		
3-Day Conference – May 8 – 10, 2024		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMS Representatives Discussing AI, Surveys, MIPS & MVPs• OIG Representative Discussing New Compliance Program Guidelines• Former House Representative Sharing What Congress Needs/Wants to Hear From Providers• Former Energy & Commerce Staff Sharing the Importance of Congressional Committees• Hill Visits & Much More!		
https://www.eventsquid.com/event/23778		

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