Grassroots Network Advocacy Guide

“America is not governed by the majority, but the majority that participate.”

– Thomas Jefferson
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On behalf of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, thank you for your involvement in grassroots advocacy.

At its most basic form, grassroots advocacy is a group of like-minded individuals working together to advance a common interest. By taking the time to read this advocacy guide, you have demonstrated an interest in advocating for the specialty of anesthesiology. You have also joined a group of like-minded ASA supporters who care deeply about their profession, are passionate about patient safety and are strong advocates for improving the quality of patient care. As this group grows, through the involvement of people like you, the collective voices of each individual will become a stronger, more powerful tool for influencing legislation and regulation that impacts anesthesiology and health care in general.

As you read this, other advocacy organizations, with vastly different agendas, are recruiting members to advocate for their own positions and to shape health care to fit their own agendas. These advocacy organizations, with their networks of educated and engaged members, play an ever-increasing role in shaping the laws and regulations that govern today’s society. Thus, your involvement in the ASA Grassroots Network is very important. If you don't advocate for anesthesiology, who will?

Grassroots physician involvement, in several forms, is what will ultimately define the practice of anesthesiology and our success or failure in Washington. With the health care environment constantly changing, there is no better time to begin or step up your involvement in the civic process. This guide was created to help get you started or to take your advocacy involvement to the next level.

In this guide you will find:

★ Information about our Grassroots and Key Contact programs and what is required
★ Tips for contacting your legislators and what you can do to be an effective advocate for the medical specialty of anesthesiology
★ A general overview of the U.S. government and the legislative and regulatory processes
★ Resources to keep you informed and help you grow as an advocate

Thank you again for your involvement and please encourage your colleagues to read this guide and also get involved.

Sincerely,

Sam Page, M.D., FASA
Chair, Committee on Governmental Affairs
About the ASA Grassroots Network

The ASA Grassroots Network provides physician anesthesiologists with a united and powerful voice to help influence legislative and regulatory affairs, both in Washington and at the state level. While the ASA Advocacy Office employs a professional staff of lawyers and lobbyists who provide excellent representation in Washington, time and time again, legislators explain that the voice they want to hear most is that of their constituents – YOU!

Our patient-centered messages gain additional credibility with legislators and regulators when they are delivered by practicing physicians who see firsthand the impact of laws and regulation on patient care and the practice of medicine. As a practicing physician who lives and/or works in the Member’s district or state, you have a great deal of influence on your Member of Congress, especially if you are active and can influence others.

By joining the ASA Grassroots Network, you will receive the latest legislative information, action alerts and invitations to exclusive events that will help you to be more active and engaged. Your participation, along with the professional efforts of the ASA staff, will ensure that elected officials are aware of the interests of physician anesthesiologists and the impact of legislative proposals on the delivery of anesthesia care.

Joining the ASA Grassroots Network is easy and can be done online at grassroots.asahq.org.

ASA Key Contact Program
Legislators need two things to be convinced that an issue is important enough to support: quantity of contacts (a large number of emails, phone calls or faxes) and quality of contacts (hearing about an issue from a known, trusted and reliable source).

The more contacts a legislator’s office receives from constituents about a particular issue, the more important that issue becomes. By joining the ASA Grassroots Network and responding to action alerts, your voice combines with other ASA members to deliver a large quantity of unified messages to Capitol Hill about a particular issue.

All ASA Grassroots Network members at a minimum are expected to:
★ Respond to Action Alerts from ASA
★ Inform their legislators and colleagues about issues important to physician anesthesiologists

ASA Key Contacts are also members of the ASA Grassroots Network, but go the extra mile and are advocates that agree to be called upon to take specific action on short notice on important legislative matters. They help reinforce and add value to the large volume of messages sent through the ASA Grassroots Network by speaking personally to legislators or their staff and educating them about a particular issue.

How Do You Become A Key Contact?
Key Contacts are physician members who have developed a trusted, working relationship with their Member of Congress. Some relationships are personal and were developed naturally through friends, family or a common thread such as membership in the same civic or alumni organization or even having children that attend school together. Other Key Contact relationships are developed through years of meeting and working with the Member of Congress on various issues.
About the ASA Grassroots Network

Developing a Key Contact relationship from scratch takes time, effort and patience. An ideal way to meet an elected official is to be introduced through a common friend, such as another ASA member that already has an established relationship. Visiting legislators’ Washington, D.C., and local district offices, attending town-hall meetings, hosting or attending fundraisers, or volunteering for their campaign are also great ways to jumpstart or further develop your relationship. It is never too late to start developing your relationship with your Member of Congress, and it is never too early to start developing relationships with candidates. If you have questions about a particular member or candidate's stance on ASA issues, please call our ASA Advocacy Office. If you have a relationship with a Member of Congress or would like to try to become a key contact for your Member of Congress, let us know by emailing grassroots@asahq.org.
Be Informed: Good advocates must be able to respond intelligently to questions, yet have the wisdom to defer when unsure of an answer. If a question is posed to which you are unsure of your response, feel free to call the ASA Advocacy Office for the answer and be certain to follow up with the answer after your meeting. Information on ASA’s positions can be found on our website asahq.org/advocacy-and-asapac/advocacy-topics, and also in ASA Vital Signs, a political and grassroots-focused e-newsletter that will help keep you current on the latest happenings in Washington.

Understand the legislative process: This guide is an introduction to the legislative process and government. If you have questions, reach out to the ASA Advocacy Office before contacting your representative or senators.

Know the Member of Congress: While your legislators may not be close friends at first, you should have a cursory knowledge of who they are. Use the ASA Grassroots Network site or your Members’ websites to learn about their interests and expertise.

Stay in touch: Repetition is the key to developing a relationship with any lawmaker. Be visible at local events, town hall meetings, fundraisers and occasionally in Washington, D.C.

Keep your colleagues informed: If a representative or senator has been helpful to you, let ASA and your colleagues know. Remember to thank Members for their efforts after a critical vote.

Keep the ASA Advocacy Office informed: If you schedule a meeting or discuss an issue with your representatives, let our ASA Advocacy Office know what was said and send them a copy of any correspondence. Our lobbyists may use your information to follow up with the office.

Support your position: Prepare sound reasons to defend your position. Personal stories about the impact of legislation on your patients are particularly compelling. Your role is to educate the Member of Congress. Be informed on issues and visit the ASA Governmental Affairs website www.asahq.org/advocacy-and-asapac/advocacy-topics or call the ASA Advocacy Office (202-289-2222) if you need the latest information before a scheduled meeting.

Get to know congressional staff: Your legislator’s staff is very important. They often have more time to spend with constituents, and it is their responsibility to thoroughly examine the issues, prepare correspondence and prepare your Member for votes. Use time with staff to make sure the complex issues related to anesthesiology are fully explained.

Be available: ASA staff often has less than a week’s notice before a crucial vote. The ASA Advocacy Office acknowledges the physician anesthesiologist’s busy schedule and makes every attempt to provide you with the necessary information in sufficient time for your review prior to making a telephone call or writing a letter. Be sure to keep your contact information updated.

Continue your political education: Whether you are a novice or a seasoned pro at understanding the legislative process, it is imperative that you take the time to attend state or national meetings focusing on health issues. Opportunities include the annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., and various meetings in your state. Contact your Legislative Chair regarding local meetings.
Identifying Your Elected Officials

For contact information consult the ASA Grassroots Network at asahq.org/grassroots.

All Key Contacts are ASA Grassroots Network Members, but not all Grassroots Network Members are Key Contacts

Basics of Contacting Your Legislators

Members of Congress are elected by the people to work for the people. As a constituent, it is important for your elected officials to hear from you.

Below are general tips for success when contacting your legislators:

★ Use the ASA Grassroots Network. Visit asahq.org/grassroots to find information you can use to identify and contact your legislator. Model emails and letters are also available.

★ Identify yourself. Let the congressional office know who you are and why you are calling. Be sure to let the staff know that you are a constituent and a physician anesthesiologist.

★ Be familiar with your legislator. Take the time to learn some basic background facts, both political and personal, about your legislator.

★ Be specific. Identify the bill or issue. If you don’t know the bill number, describe it by its popular title, such as “the Medicare reform bill.” Focus on only one issue at a time.

★ Be brief. Your opinions stand a better chance of being read if they are stated concisely. When writing your legislator, include any detailed information to your letter or message.

★ Be timely. Inform your legislator while there is still time to take action.

★ Be constructive. If you have expert knowledge, share it. A legislator cannot possibly be an expert on every issue.

★ If you believe a bill incorrectly addresses an issue, provide an alternative suggestion.

★ Offer to serve as a medical resource as issues arise. As a physician, you have credibility and expertise in your field.

★ Be direct. State your position on a bill or issue and the reasons for your position. Use examples from your own experience to make your point. Urge your representatives to support your position when voting for or against a bill in committee or on the floor. Ask that the legislator respond and explain his or her position on the issue. When you receive a reply from the legislator, send a note of thanks or comments regarding the response. Be sure to state the facts if you intend to refute comments made by your legislator.

★ Be organized. Make sure you are well-prepared in your thoughts and comments prior to contacting your legislator. If you are calling about a specific bill, familiarize yourself with the bill number and name, and with the specific section of the bill about which you will be speaking.

★ Be complimentary. Members and senators appreciate praise from their constituents.

★ Be respectful. An overly aggressive or disgruntled attitude will not win you favor.

★ Get personal. It is easier to drive home a point with individual experiences than generalizations. Invite your legislator to tour your hospital when he or she is in the district or state office.

★ Say thank you. Be sure to thank your legislators for their time after a meeting or a crucial vote.

★ Follow up. If you offer to follow-up on a question or send materials, keep your word. If the legislator or staff does not give you a “yes” or “no” answer, or if they say they will “look into the issue,” be sure to follow-up a week or two later. Be persistent but polite.

Roadblocks to avoid when contacting your legislators:

★ Demanding support. This tactic will get you nowhere fast.

★ Touching on too many subject matters. This will dilute your overall message. Two or three issues is the absolute maximum appropriate for discussion. One issue is preferred.

★ Using medical jargon. This can often confuse the legislator and staff members. It is always best to make your argument in lay terms.

★ Overdoing it. Don’t write or call too often. Quality and timing, not quantity, are important.
Letter and Email Writing
The thoughtful persuasive letter or email can make a difference. Legislators both expect and depend upon written communications from their constituents.

If you visit your Member of Congress, you should follow up with a personal message expanding on the issues you discussed. Documentation and explanation of the issues, and any commitment you may have received, is essential for the legislator’s staff.

To address your Senator:
The Honorable (full name)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

To address your Representative:
The Honorable (full name)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Tips for writing letters and emails:
★ Use ASA materials. The ASA Advocacy Office provides materials explaining our position on current legislation. When referencing ASA materials, be sure to include a copy of the document(s) to support your position.
★ Write the right person. Establish yourself as a constituent and concentrate on the delegation from your state. Your Members will want to know your views.
★ Don’t write the wrong person. Do not write all members of a committee nor all the members of the House or Senate. Legislators wish to hear from their constituents.
★ Personalize all communication. The ASA Grassroots Network allows members to easily communicate with their legislators. Be sure to personalize all of your responses to Action Alerts. Sharing a personal experience with your legislators is the most effective means of communication as a constituent.

Pointers for Fax
Faxes are a good way to communicate with Members of Congress if there is not sufficient time to send a letter. The message should be brief and clear and arrive prior to the expected action. The ASA Advocacy Office will advise appropriate timing and the suggested message if this method of communication is best suited for ASA legislative strategy.

Email and fax are the quickest and best ways to send written communication to your legislators’ offices. For the safety of Capitol staff members and Members of Congress, all snail mail goes through an irradiation process at an off-site location. By the time your letter is screened and delivered, your issue may be obsolete.
Communicating by Telephone

Often Congress acts on issues quickly, with no time for a letter to reach the Capitol. ASA will manage campaigns to generate calls to Capitol Hill on important legislation. When phoning, it is important to understand that you will most likely not speak with the legislator directly; however, you may speak with the staff person who specializes in your area of concern. It is important to build a positive relationship with staff members as well as with the legislator directly; do not be concerned when you are referred to staff members. Write down the staff member’s name so you can ask for that person on your next call, or when you visit the representative or senator’s office at a future time. The importance of rapport with personal and committee staff is invaluable.

You may reach the Capitol switchboard by calling (202) 225-3121; the operators will connect you to your senator or representative’s office. You can also visit the ASA Grassroots Network website to find the direct phone number for your legislator’s office. You can find the names of key staff members on the website as well.

The following guidelines are offered as recommendations:

★ Try to speak with the right person. In most situations, the “Health Legislative Aide” or “Health Legislative Assistant” will coordinate issues pertinent to physician anesthesiologists. Take note of this staff member so that you can ask for him or her next time you call or visit the office.

★ Be prepared for your phone call. Prepare a specific list of points you want to make. Be sure to check the ASA website for key message points. Stick to your talking points as closely as possible.

★ Be brief. Congressional staffers spend an extraordinary amount of time on the phone and in meetings. Use their time well by communicating your message clearly and concisely.

Communicating in Person

This is the best way to present your views to your senator or representative, as well as staff members. These meetings can take place during the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., or in your district or state during a congressional recess period. Local meetings may include but are not limited to meeting at the senator or representatives district office, town hall meetings and site visits at your hospital, surgical care center or office.

It is important to plan your meeting well in advance. Contact the legislator’s office in his or her district or in Washington, D.C., (depending on where you wish to meet with the lawmaker) and ask to speak with the Scheduler. Congressional schedules tend to be hectic; the more flexible your schedule is, the more likely that you will have the opportunity for a Washington visit. If you are interested in meeting with the legislator in the district or state, it is best to plan your meeting during a congressional recess period.

Keep in mind that meeting with staff members can be just as important and productive as they have more time to spend with constituents and become familiar with the issues.
Identifying Your Elected Officials

Tips for legislative visits:

★ **Plan in advance.** Have a detailed plan of the topics you wish to discuss and make sure your information is as up to date as possible. Bill numbers and names are important. If possible, provide staff members with information in advance.

★ **Take a manageable-sized group with you.** There is safety in numbers, but you do not want to have such a large group that your message gets distorted by having “too many messengers.” Five people is a manageable size for the small legislative offices. Always try to identify co-presenters who have special expertise (e.g., a CRNA-turned-physician anesthesiologist if you are discussing scope of practice issues), and make sure your delegation represents a cross-section of the specialty.

★ **Pay attention to your legislator.** He or she may have additional information on the subject matter in which you are interested.

★ **Treat staff members with courtesy.** Do not be discouraged if you meet with a legislative staff member. Often, this person is more knowledgeable on the specifics of legislation than the Member.

★ **Be prepared to make your point.** Legislators are besieged with advocates for countless groups and causes. They will often try to keep the conversation general, talking about everything except what you want to talk about. Be prepared to politely direct the conversation to your topic.

★ **Thank the legislator and staff for seeing you, and follow up with a letter or email that reemphasizes your points.**

★ **Send the ASA Advocacy Office a copy of any correspondence you send.**

★ **Avoid using medical jargon.** This can often confuse the legislator and staff members. It is always best to make your argument in lay terms.

★ **Don’t feel snubbed if you meet with a staff member.** Most of them know the issues inside and out – maybe better than you do – and are responsible for distilling information for their boss. Meetings with your legislators in Washington can often be interrupted by a recorded vote on the floor or by a committee vote. This is a common occurrence and should not be viewed as an attempt to “get out of the meeting” with you and your group. Leave time, if you can, to be responsive to the frenetic schedule of the legislators and their staffs.

★ **Be prepared for a brief and hectic meeting.** Since space is very limited in congressional offices, expect to have a meeting in a small lobby or conference room, or perhaps even a hallway or the congressional cafeteria. You are likely one of several other meetings the staffer has scheduled, so convey your message clearly and concisely.
Who's Who in Your Legislator’s Office

The size of the legislator’s staff may vary greatly depending on which chamber they serve in and leadership positions they hold. To effectively communicate with your legislator, knowing the titles and principal functions of key staff is helpful.

**Staff Assistant** – Usually the most junior member of the staff, whose primary functions include answering phones, opening mail and basic constituent services.

**Scheduler** – This person is in charge of all appointments, meetings and personal activities. When trying to get in direct contact with a legislator, either by phone or in person, you should always ask to speak to the scheduler.

**Legislative Correspondent (LC)** – This person’s main responsibility is to draft the legislator’s responses to letters and phone calls. He or she may also do some legislative research.

**Legislative Assistant (LA)** – This is the point person on a given issue. An office may have several LAs divided according to committee or legislative categories. An LA is a policy expert and often drafts position papers and briefs the legislator on the pros and cons of specific legislation.

**Legislative Director (LD)** – This person may be referred to as the Policy Director. He or she oversees all of the legislative activity for the office. The LA and LC report to the Legislative Director.

**Chief of Staff (CoS)** – This person also may be referred to as the Administrative Assistant (AA). The legislator relies most heavily on the opinions of their Chief of Staff when making tough legislative and political choices. The Chief of Staff is also the individual that runs the office including coordinating the capitol and district offices.

**District Director** – The District Director is the Chief of Staff in the home office.

**Caseworker** – The caseworker’s primary duty is to help constituents if they need assistance to resolve an issue with a government agency; this work typically takes place in a district or state office and does not involve legislation.

Things You Can Do to Make a Difference

**Write an op-ed or provide an interview to the media**: a large topic where the ASA Advocacy Office can provide assistance:

- Legislators and their staffs pay enormous attention to local media outlets.
- We are all media consumers – newspapers, radio and television stations, and online news outlets need content 24/7.
- There are times when you can provide important information to the local community that complements ASA’s priorities.
- Whenever your name appears in print, you gain additional third-party credibility with Legislators and their staff who monitor the media on issues that matter to their constituents.
- Staffers maintain files on all major issues, so when the time comes for them to seek out a constituent expert, you will be on their list if you have made the personal contacts and done the media outreach.

**Testify before a committee**: ASA has additional resources on how to give testimony before a legislative committee

**Run for office**: Several ASA members have successfully campaigned for public offices at the state and federal level. Also, the ASA participates in an excellent campaign school if you think you might be candidate material. Ultimately, there is no better way for patient and physician causes to be represented than by a doctor in the house and in the senate.
Additional Ways to Get Involved in Grassroots

★ Attend a local town-hall meeting hosted by your legislator.
★ Schedule a formal meeting in the district or state office with your legislator.
★ Ask the legislator to address a meeting of your hospital’s medical staff, coupled perhaps with a site visit to the O.R.
★ Get personally involved in political campaigns or district projects associated with your lawmaker.
★ Attend the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.
★ Invite the legislator to speak to your state component society.
★ Participate in Get out the Vote efforts.
★ Respond to ASA Action Alerts on important legislation.
★ Get involved with your local PAC and the ASAPAC.
★ Get involved in a local candidate’s campaign.
★ Involve residents and medical students in advocacy efforts.
★ Tell the ASA Advocacy Office about your grassroots efforts.

The Importance of Getting Involved in ASAPAC

The political process directly impacts our practices. It plays a key role in determining how much we are paid, the regulatory and legal environment in which we practice and the role of non-physician providers in our practices. Federal and most state laws prohibit corporations and associations such as the ASA from involving themselves in the political process. However, federal law does permit corporations and associations like ASA to create and operate political action committees.

ASA has a national PAC, ASAPAC, which is the political component of the ASA. It is a separate, voluntary entity – the funds of which are used for political purposes. Specifically, the funds are devoted to permitting physician anesthesiologists to participate in elections involving the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. ASAPAC can also participate in some state elections if permitted by state law.

ASAPAC provides an effective political voice for the profession and allows us to have a voice in the process through which candidates are elected to office.

ASAPAC has a national PAC Representative Program to encourage political activity in each state and many State Component Societies have their own PACs to support local candidates. It is critical that all ASA members support ASAPAC and their state PAC. The participation rate is an important and visible measurement of ASA’s commitment to advocacy and is critical to offsetting the political activities of other non-anesthesiology special interests.

For more information on ASAPAC, contact the ASA Advocacy Office, visit asahq.org/ASAPAC or contact your local PAC Representative. Resources are available for those interested in increasing their level of political involvement.
The process of a bill becoming a law can be long and arduous, or it can be bafflingly abrupt. Especially when political maneuvering enters the equation, the process and results are often unpredictable. Despite this, it is important to have a basic understanding of the legislative process at its simplest.

For a bill to become law, the following steps occur:

Introduction: A Member of Congress puts forth legislative language, which is then referred to a relevant Committee based on the bill’s content.

Committee action: Committees may hold hearings to obtain additional information about the bill, involving stakeholders who support and oppose the legislation. Committee members then vote to send the bill to the House or Senate for full consideration, or table it indefinitely.

Floor activity: Once a bill is passed out of committee, it typically moves to the House or Senate for consideration by the entire body. Members debate the bill, and eventually vote on its passage or defeat.

Conference: Before the president can sign a bill into law, it must pass both chambers – the House and the Senate. If the House passes a different version of the legislation than the Senate, or vice versa, the differences must be resolved through a conference committee. Once the two chambers agree upon a single version, the bill heads to the president’s desk.

Consideration by the president: The president can either sign the bill into law or veto it. Because of our government’s system of check and balances, Congress may override the president’s veto with a two-thirds majority vote from each chamber.
The government of the United States is defined by the U.S. Constitution and the Federal component is composed of three branches – the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches. Each branch serves a purpose of executing, making, or interpreting the laws of the United States of America. Although, each branch of government is equally important, a citizen’s influence and advocacy is best focused on the legislators they elect to Congress.

The United States Congress, which is charged with making the laws, is a bicameral body composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. As provided in our Constitution, the House has 435 members and the Senate has 100 members. Each state has two senators. While the number of representatives per state varies based on population, each state has at least one.

Both the House and Senate have equal legislative functions, with some exceptions: all revenue and appropriations bills must originate in the House, and approval of presidential nominations for judgeships, Cabinet members, ambassadors and the like only occur in the Senate.

**The picture below illustrates the difference between the two Chambers of Congress.**
When legislation developed by Congress is signed into law by the President, specific details to implement the will of Congress are often drafted by the appropriate Federal agency, such as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These details are known as regulations. Such proposed regulations are then published in the Federal Register, thus notifying the public and inviting comment from interested individuals or organizations. The comment period may last several weeks or months. If public hearings are planned to discuss any proposed regulations, the date and location of the hearings will be included in the notice.

Most comments are submitted as formal, written responses. After comments have been received and evaluated, the agency will announce the implementation of the regulations as written, or resubmit them with changes based on testimony, or withdraw them altogether. ASA members, preferably with guidance from ASA staff, or ASA staff and leadership may submit comments. Occasionally, ASA will issue a call to action encouraging members to submit comments.

Before submitting a comment letter, keep in mind that all submissions are made public and include the identification of the submitting organization or individual. Comments received electronically may be posted on websites. If you are interested in reviewing comments received by an agency, you can make arrangements to review all comments received.

While the regulatory process may seem straightforward, it can be subject to immense political pressure and thus may drag on for months or years as multiple revisions are proposed. In addition to submitting written comments, often interested parties will meet directly with agency personnel in an attempt to resolve differences. Soliciting support from members of Congress or representatives of other Federal agencies is another means of garnering support for a particular result.
Glossary

Act – A bill that has been made law by passing both houses of Congress and signed by the President.

Amendment – A proposal by a member of Congress to alter the language of a bill.

Appropriation – Funds set aside by Congress from the Treasury for specific government expenditures.

Bill – A proposed law. Identical bills introduced in both houses are called “companion bills.”

Blue Dogs – In general, conservative Democratic Representatives.

Caucus – “Caucus” is used as both a noun and a verb. A caucus, n., is a group of people who share something in common (e.g., they are members of the same political party, such as the Senate Republican Caucus or the House Democratic Caucus). When these members caucus, they meet to address their group’s policy questions and to select political candidates for office, or political party leaders.

Cloture vote – A vote in the senate limiting debate, requiring 60 votes.

Conference Committee – Selected Members of the House and Senate, tasked with resolving differences between similar bills passed independently by the House and Senate.

Constituent – A citizen residing within the district of a legislator.

CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly HCFA)

Filibuster – A delaying tactic to prevent action on a bill. In the Senate, a Member or group of Members may filibuster by speaking continuously.

Germane – Relevant to pending legislation. In the House, proposed amendments must be germane to the bill or law they would amend. In the Senate, germaneness is not normally necessary.

“Hard” Money – Political contributions from individuals and PACs that are subject to Federal election law limits and are used directly to support Federal candidates.

Lobbyist – A person who is employed by an organization to represent its interests before Congress.

Motion – A request by a Member to institute any one of a wide array of parliamentary actions. The outcome of a motion is decided by a vote.

Pay for performance or P4P – A broad and loosely defined term that encompasses “process” or “outcomes” standards that might be applied to physicians and other health care professionals as an added reimbursement reward or to otherwise affect reimbursement.

Political Action Committee (PAC) – Groups representing particular interests (health care, labor, etc.) that raise money from their members and give it to political candidates who support their position.
Glossary

**PQRS** – Physicians Quality Reporting System

**Quorum** – A majority of Members of Congress duly chosen and sworn in—either in the absence of death or resignations: 218 in the House and 51 in the Senate. A quorum is necessary to conduct business.

**SGR** – Sustainable Growth Rate, the Medicare Fee Schedule update system.

**Veto** – Presidential refusal to sign legislation passed by the House and Senate. A veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both houses.

Resources

www.usa.gov/agencies
www.congress.gov
www.house.gov
www.senate.gov


About ASA

At the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), we take pride in our dedication to raise and maintain the standards of the medical practice of anesthesiology and to improve patient care. Since 1905, our achievements have played an important role in American medicine and we've acted as an advocate for all patients who require anesthesia or relief from pain. We provide outstanding education, research and scientific knowledge to physician anesthesiologists and care team members.