

# Health Policy Advocacy: How You and Your Chapter Can Support Oncology Nurses and People with Cancer

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# ADVOCACY

- Patient
- Legislative
- Regulatory
- Media
- Legal



# Who Am I to lobby Congress?

*I am "just" a nurse.*

- The Constitution grants you the right "to petition the government for a redress of grievances."
- Congress Plays Health Professional - you are one, and they need your expertise!
- They Work for YOU!
- Washington, DC  
Legislative Staff  
Policy Focus

District/State  
Caseworkers &  
Outreach Staff  
Local Focus/Constituent Services



# Congress: The Basics

## House

- 435
- Population Based - More Populous States Have More Representatives and Less Populated States Have Fewer Representatives
- Serve Two Year Terms and All 435 Seats Are Up for Election Every Two Years
- A Member Represents a Local District

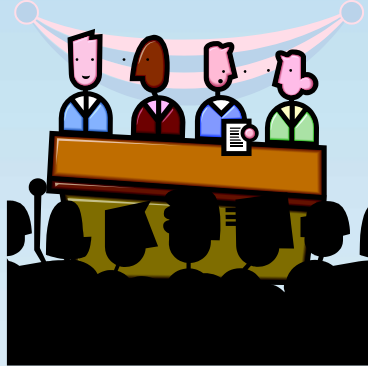


## Senate

- 100
- Two Per State - Both Senators Represent the Entire State
- Serve Six Year Terms and 1/3 of the Senate Is Up for Election Every Two Years

# KEY COMMITTEES & CAUCUSES

## House



## Senate

- Appropriations (LHHS)
- Energy & Commerce (Health Subcommittee)
- Ways & Means (Health Subcommittee)
- House Cancer Caucus
- House Nursing Caucus

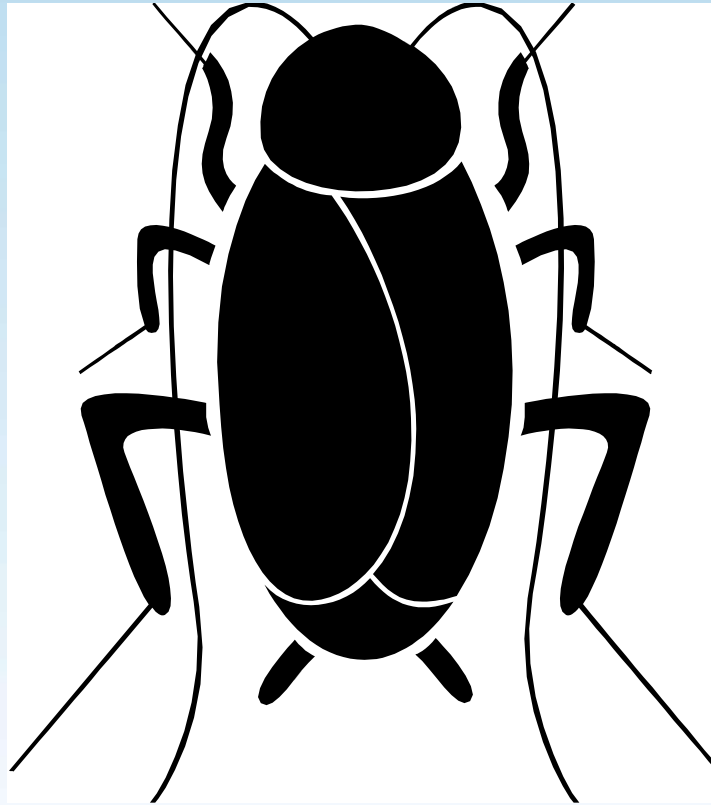
- Appropriations (LHHS)
- Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
- Finance Committee
- Senate Cancer Coalition

# CAPITOL HILL: THE REAL DEAL

- Congress Legislates by Anecdote
  - *Compelling Stories Prompt Action*
- Members Need to "Hear from Home"
  - *Constituents Have An Impact*
- One Letter = One Law
  - *Megan's Law*
  - *MADD*
  - *Amber Alert*
- Congress is Run by 20 and 30 Year Olds
  - *Young Staffers Have Power and Influence, But Need Your Expertise*
- *Cancer is Universal*



# Cockroach



# Theory

# What Health Policy Advocacy Offers to ONS Chapters

- Content for Newsletters, Chapter Websites, and Virtual Communities - Action Alerts, Legislative Updates, Issue Briefs, etc.
- Chapter Meeting Activities - ONStat Recruitment, Advocacy Postcards/ Letter Writing, Reports on State, Local or National Issues of Interest, etc.
- Speakers for Chapter Meetings - Health Policy Advocacy "Trainings," Members of Congress/Staffers to Attend to Learn About Oncology Nursing, etc.
- Assistance/Support for Chapter and Member Priorities - Health Policy Manager and SHPLs.
- Connections To Policymakers And Congressional Case Workers - Assistance for you and your patients in navigating the health care system, securing Medicare and Medicaid and private insurance coverage for cancer care, and other support, benefits, and access that people with cancer need and deserve.

## Taking Advocacy Action Today - Your Resources

- HR 1927 Frequently Asked Questions
- HR 1927 Template letters
- Stationery to write your letter
- Top 10 tips for writing to Congress

## Taking Advocacy Action Today

- Review the cosponsor lists to see which of your Members already have lent support to H.R. 1927. This information will help you to determine to which Member you should be writing and whether you are expressing thanks for support or requesting cosponsorship.
- Write your letter - personalize it as much as possible and turn it in at the end of the conference.

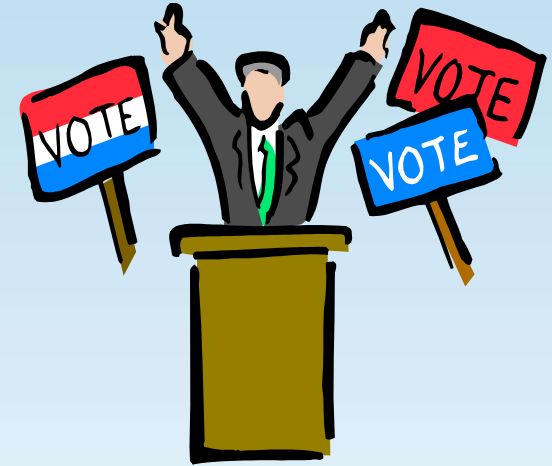


# COMMUNICATION: TOP 10 TIPS

1. Be Clear, Brief, Polite, & Honest
2. State Up-front What You are Requesting
3. Include a Personal Example
4. Give Evidence and Use Local Data (not too much) to Illustrate the Issue/Problem
5. Discuss Positive Effects of Taking Action/Consequences of Not Taking Action
6. Repeat the Point
7. Be a Resource & Offer to Help
8. Ask Clearly for Action/Response
9. Express Your Appreciation for Time/Attention to Your Concerns
10. Follow-Up - Keep a Copy of Your Letter/E-mail, and Record Who You Spoke With in the Office

# PUTTING ADVOCACY INTO ACTION AT-HOME

- Recruit your members to ONSTAT
- Know who represents your chapter, and share the information with your members
- Conduct a letter writing campaign at a chapter meeting
- Respond to ONS Action Alerts, and distribute them to your members
- Host a health policy advocacy workshop and offer CEUs
- Invite elected officials and their staff to attend a chapter meeting
- Visit the local offices of your elected officials
- Monitor and take action on issues at the state/local level
- Attend a town hall meeting of your elected officials
- Submit a letter to the editor of your local newspaper
- Visit the ONS LAC - [www.onslac.org](http://www.onslac.org) - and distribute materials
- Include health policy advocacy in all your chapter communications
- Register & Vote





# ONS National Office Support

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# ONS Legislative Action Center

<http://www.ons.org/lac/>

OR

<http://www.onslac.org/>

[Home](#)[Learning Objectives](#)[Technical Requirements](#)[Register](#)[Contact Us](#)[ONS Website](#)

## Advocacy 101: Making A Difference

As healthcare professionals, oncology nurses know how the decisions made by the policymakers in Washington, DC, can have an impact on the ability to deliver the highest possible level of care. One of the most important things that oncology nurses can do to ensure quality care is to seek to influence these decisions.



This **self-directed, self-paced online course** introduces the concept of health policy advocacy and demonstrates to you how, in a minimal amount of time, you can have a voice and impact on these critical decisions.

All students interested in this course are advised to review the [Technical Requirements](#) before purchasing the course.

**Online students will receive 1.5 continuing education credits** at the successful completion of the program.

ONS is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation.

ONS is approved as a provider of continuing education by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #2850.



Accreditation as an American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission provider refers only to its continuing nursing education activities and does not imply ANCC Commission on Accreditation endorsement of any commercial products.

The contact hours earned from this educational opportunity qualify for initial oncology nursing certification and renewal via ONC-PRO. Visit [www.oncc.org](http://www.oncc.org) for complete details on oncology nursing certification.

Visit [Learning Objectives](#) to learn more.