

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
February 4, 2021



Regional Advocacy Update

Background: *HLC's Regional Advocacy Program has long been one of the most respected among trade associations and policy advocates. Because a message carries greater resonance if a member of Congress hears it directly from constituents, HLC has taken its advocacy "on the road" to communicate with lawmakers when they are working in their home states and congressional districts. HLC continues to achieve results by taking its message beyond the Capital Beltway.*

The backbone of the HLC Regional Advocacy Program is the use of Health Leadership Teams (HLTeams). Six HLC regional directors traditionally bring together HLTeams, comprised of HLC member company representatives, local business allies, and community health advocates, to engage with senators and representatives in their respective states and districts. HLTeams present a consensus, crosssectoral viewpoint on healthcare issues from the "real world" perspective of constituents explaining the impact of Washington policies on local patients and jobs. During the pandemic, HLC regional directors have engaged team members virtually and will continue to do so throughout the year.

Key Regional Advocacy Activities:

HLC coordinated or participated in more than 300 advocacy activities and meetings in 2020. Some of these activities included:

- **In-District Meetings With Members of Congress.** In-district meetings provide an opportunity for members of Congress to hear directly from their constituents and consider issues affecting the entire healthcare industry. These meetings have remained critical to the interests of HLC members. HLC regional directors coordinated 58 in-district or state meetings with members of Congress, nearly half with members on key committees of healthcare jurisdiction.

House Ways & Means Committee

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R/TX)
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D/PA)
Rep. Judy Chu (D/CA)
Rep. Suzan DelBene (D/WA)
Rep. George Holding (R/NC)
Rep. Ron Kind (D/WI)
Rep. Darin LaHood (R/IL)
Rep. Terri Sewell (D/AL)
Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R/OH)

House Energy & Commerce Committee

Rep. Nanette Barrágan (D/CA)
Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R/FL)

Rep. Buddy Carter (R/GA)
Rep. Mike Doyle (D/PA)
Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D/AZ)
Rep. Scott Peters (D/CA)
Rep. Paul Tonko (D/NY)
Rep. Marc Veasey (D/TX)

Senate Finance Committee

Sen. Michael Bennet (D/CO)
Sen. Bill Cassidy (R/LA)
Sen. Steve Daines (R/MT)
Sen. Maggie Hassan (D/NH)
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D/NV)

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

Sen. Mike Braun (R/IN)
Sen. Bill Cassidy (R/LA)
Sen. Steve Daines (R/MT)
Sen. Jacky Rosen (D/NV)
Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D/AZ)

Other Committees

Rep. Mike Bost (R/IL)	Sen. Angus King (I/ME)
Rep. Gil Cisneros (D/CA)	Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D/NY)
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R/ND)	Rep. John Moolenaar (R/MI)
Rep. Charlie Crist (D/FL)	Rep. Greg Pence (R/IN)
Rep. Madeleine Dean (D/PA)	Sen. Jim Risch (R/ID)
Rep. Veronica Escobar (D/TX)	Rep. Phil Roe (R/TN)
Sen. Deb Fischer (R/NE)	Rep. David Rouzer (R/NC)
Rep. Mike Gallagher (R/WI)	Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D/PA)
Rep. Mike Garcia (R/CA)	Rep. Kim Schrier (D/WA)
Sen. Cory Gardner (R/CO)	Rep. Donna Shalala (D/FL)
Rep. Michael Guest (R/MS)	Rep. Greg Stanton (D/AZ)
Rep. Hank Johnson (D/GA)	Rep. David Trone (D/MD)
Sen. Ron Johnson (R/WI)	

- **Candidate Program.** Cornerstones of HLC's regional advocacy efforts are the HLC Candidate Program and New Member Orientation Program. Developing relationships with lawmakers early on has proven to be an investment in future interactions as these members gain seniority in Congress. In 2020, HLC regional directors met with 68 candidates. They continued to meet virtually with candidates throughout the year and now begin HLC's orientation with new members of Congress.
- **Healthcare Coffee and Conversations.** HLC's Healthcare Coffee and Conversation events introduce congressional members and candidates to the Washington, D.C., healthcare community and build upon those relationships made with members of Congress and candidates through the regional meetings. In February, HLC hosted Representative John Joyce, M.D. (R/PA), in

the HLC office. Since March, regional directors have helped to arrange virtual coffees with Senator Marsha Blackburn (R/TN), Senator Bob Casey (D/PA), Representatives Drew Ferguson (R/GA), Jimmy Gomez (D/CA), Ann Kuster (D/NH), Markwayne Mullin (R/OK), Greg Murphy, M.D. (R/NC), Tom O'Halleran (D/AZ), and Lauren Underwood (D/IL).

- **Grassroots, Grasstops Campaigns, and Regional Roundtables.** HLC regional directors are instrumental in advocating on key healthcare issues, as well as being experts in the community. HLC regional directors recruited cosponsors for, and educated congressional offices on, legislation of importance to HLC's membership, including S. 3599, the "Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act," and its House companion; and on H.R. 5741, the "Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act." They have also spent time educating members of the House and Senate on the need for a subsidy to help displaced workers afford COBRA coverage.