

## Grassroots advocacy

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The AMA continues to work to clear roadblocks to improve the nation's health and empower our growing base of physicians, residents and medical student activists. Learn to influence and help policymakers take appropriate action on medicine's most important issues.

### Physicians' Grassroots Network

Join the AMA's Physicians' Grassroots Network to stay up to date on legislative and regulatory issues impacting medicine.

### Patients' Action Network

More than 1 million patient activists have joined the Patients' Action Network, which began in 2004 in response to legislative issues that the AMA feared would harm the patient-doctor relationship and restrict patients' access to health care.

The Patients' Action Network enables our growing base of patients to take appropriate action on important health care issues. View stories from doctors and patients across the country and share your own experiences. Understand issues affecting patients and make your voice heard in Washington, D.C. Visit the Patients' Action Network.

### Political education

Every year, physicians and their spouses seek public office or work on campaigns to elect friends of medicine to offices across the country. To confront challenges to providing the best care for their patients, physicians realize that involvement in the political process is no longer optional.

The AMA's Political Action Committee (AMPAC) Political Education Programs provide politically-minded physicians with the tools they need to run effective campaigns. Learn about AMPAC's Campaign School and Candidate Workshop.

## Be a Very Influential Physician

The AMA has developed the Very Influential Physician (VIP) grassroots program to help physicians, residents and medical students take on a leadership role in grassroots activities and to build and leverage the contacts they have with their elected officials to advance our shared agenda on Capitol Hill.

If you have a relationship with a member of Congress or their staff, whether it's a personal friendship, serving as a campaign volunteer or working together in a professional capacity, and your aim is to develop a better relationship with them, we want to help you in this process and enable you to maximize the value of these key contacts.

Together with other AMA VIPs, you will have the opportunity to personally educate and engage members of Congress on issues important to organized medicine. You are a trusted source to them and, as an authority on health care, they will listen to what you have to say.

As a Very Influential Physician, you can have great impact on forming health care–related legislation and educating members of Congress on issues that matter to the AMA.

Questions about the VIP program? Contact the AMA's office of Political and Legislative Grassroots at (202) 789-7466.

## Grassroots smartphone app

The AMA and the Physicians' Grassroots Network have unveiled a new grassroots mobile application to aid physicians' ability to influence Congress.

This new app has been designed to not only assist you while visiting Capitol Hill, but also serve as an advocacy tool when interacting with legislators back home.

The app is now available for download and use on both iPhone and Android smartphones.

App features include:

- | An interactive Capitol Hill office directory with office location numbers, phone, fax and additional contact information for your U.S. representatives and senators.
- | A built-in email and phone action alert tool, which will be functional year-round so that you can respond to the latest activity on Capitol Hill.

| Access to timely talking points on our most critical issues and a real-time online feedback form to report back on your interactions with legislators.

## Resources

| AMA guide to communicating with congress (PDF)

| AMA physicians grassroots training and legislative update, October 2015 (PDF)

| AMA physicians grassroots training and legislative update, February 2015 (PDF)

| Webinars

| Crafting stories to win the Hearts, minds and votes of members of Congress, October 2015

| Effectively communicating with members of Congress, February 2015

| Building relationships back home: the value of setting up in-state meetings with lawmakers, February 2014

| Influencing lawmakers in times of crisis, November 2013

| Preparing for congressional recess: tips for scheduling meetings, July 2013

| Connecting with policy makers at home, July 2012

## National Advocacy Conference 2012

## Political and Legislative Grassroots