



Federal Advocacy Resources

Advocacy at the federal level requires understanding of the three branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial. Learn more about the different components of the federal government, as they relate to cancer prevention and early detection, in this chapter.

Congressional Leadership
Key Congressional Committees
Key Federal Agencies
How a Bill Becomes a Law

“Advocacy is critical to ensuring that we continue progress in medical research. The federal government is the main source of funding for thousands of scientists, universities, and research institutions across the nation. However for anything really new or bold, there is a daunting attrition. Advocacy funds are the catalyst for innovation. For anyone who cares about the future of cancer research, advocacy for new funding to continue the advances in science is a unique opportunity.”

JAMES L. MULSHINE M.D., ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH,
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER & PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

Federal Advocacy Resources

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The federal government is comprised of three different branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch enacts legislation, confirms or rejects presidential appointments, and has the authority to declare war. This branch is composed of Congress, which includes the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate includes two elected Senators per state (for a total of 100). The Senate term is six years and there is no term limit. The House includes 435 elected Representatives (also known as Congressmen or Congresswomen). These Representatives are divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population and each Representative serves a two-year term with no term limit. Therefore, every individual is represented by two U.S. Senators and one Representative (with the exception of Americans residing in U.S. territories or in Washington D.C. who are represented by a Delegate—a nonvoting member of the U.S. House of Representatives).

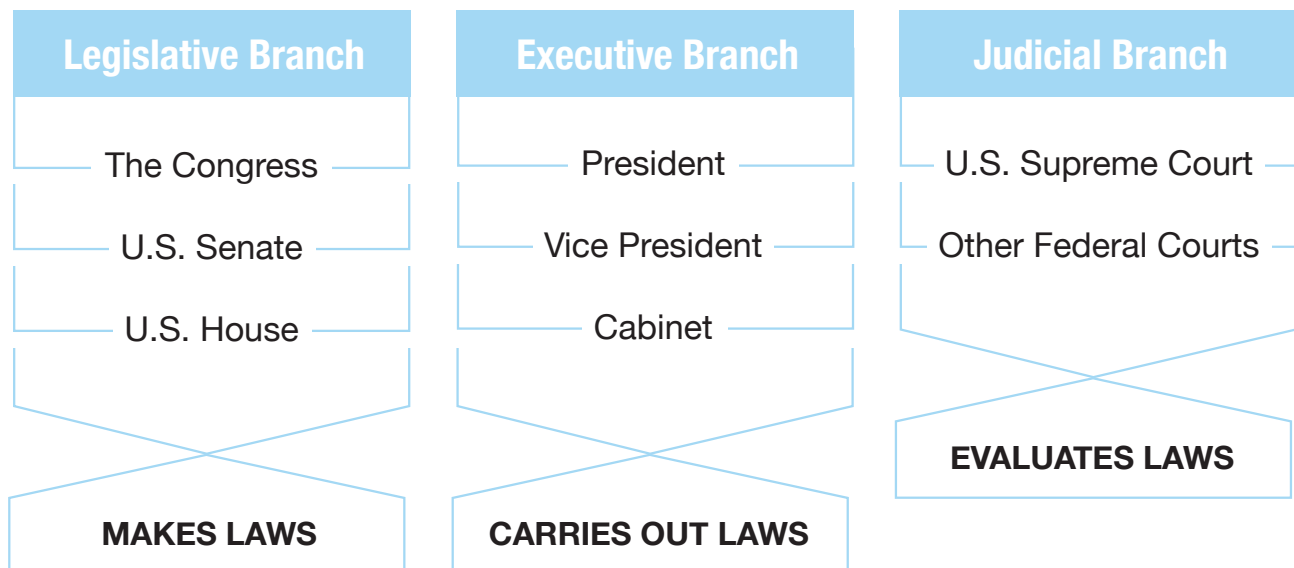
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive branch carries out and enforces laws. It includes the President, Vice President, the Cabinet, executive departments, federal agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial branch interprets the meaning of laws, applies laws to individual cases, and decides if laws violate the Constitution. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. The justices of the Supreme Court are nominated by the President and must be approved by the Senate (with at least 51 votes). Congress decides the number of justices and there are currently nine. Justices are appointed for life.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Federal Advocacy Resources

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Congressional Leadership

U.S. SENATE

Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) *Majority Leader* | @SenatorReid
Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) *Majority Whip* | @SenatorDurbin
Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) *Democratic Conference Committee Chair* | @SenatorReid
Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) *Democratic Conference Committee Vice Chair and Policy Committee Chair* | @SenSchumer
Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) *Democratic Conference Secretary* | @PattyMurray
Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) *Minority Leader* | @McConnellPress
Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) *Minority Whip* | @JohnCornyn
Senator John Thune (R-SD) *Republican Conference Chair* | @SenJohnThune
Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) *Republican Policy Committee Chair* | @SenJohnBarrasso
Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) *Republican Conference Vice Chair* | @RoyBlunt

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative John Boehner (R-OH) *Speaker* | @JohnBoehner | @SpeakerBoehner
Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) *Majority Leader* | @GOPLeader
Representative Steve Scalise (R-LA) *Majority Whip* | @GOPWhip
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) *Republican Conference Chair* | @cathymcmorris
Representative James Lankford (R-OK) *Republican Policy Committee Chair* | @RepLankford
Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) *Minority Leader* | @NancyPelosi
Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) *Minority Whip* | @WhipHoyer
Representative James Clyburn (D-SC) *Assistant Democratic Leader* | @Clyburn
Representative Xavier Becerra (D-CA) *Democratic Caucus Chairman* | @RepBecerra

Key Congressional Committees and Subcommittees

The following Congressional committees and subcommittees are vital to cancer prevention and early detection policy. They are panels of Members of the House and/or Senate tasked with conducting hearings, examining and developing legislation, conducting oversight, and/or helping to manage chamber business and activities. Note that Senate and House committees do not always have the same names.

For a full list of government departments and agencies, visit <http://www.usa.gov/directory/federal/>.

U.S. SENATE

Senate Committee on Appropriations

The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations is the largest committee in the Senate and its role is defined by the U.S. Constitution which requires “appropriations made by law” prior to the expenditure of any money from the Federal treasury. The committee writes the legislation that allocates federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments, and organizations on an annual basis. Appropriations are limited to the levels set by a Budget Resolution, drafted by the Senate Budget Committee. There are 12 subcommittees tasked with drafting legislation to allocate funds to government agencies within their jurisdictions.

Chair: Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) | @SenatorBarb

Ranking Member: Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) | @SenShelby

Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS)

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor and related agencies.

Chair: Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) | @SenatorHarkin

Ranking Member: Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) | @JerryMoran

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Department of Agriculture (except Forest Service), Farm Credit Administration, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Chair: Senator Mary Pryor (D-AR) | @SenMarkPryor

Ranking Member: Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) | @RoyBlunt

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Senate Budget Committee

The Senate Budget Committee determines fiscal priorities by creating the federal budget. The Budget Committees (including the House counterpart) are responsible for drafting Congress' annual budget plan and monitoring action on the budget for the federal government. In addition, the Budget Committees have jurisdiction over the operation of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Chair: Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) | @PattyMurray

Ranking Member: Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) | @SenatorSessions

Senate Committee on Finance

The Finance Committee is concerned with matters related to: taxation and other revenue measures generally, and those relating to the insular possessions; bonded debt of the United States; customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; tariff and import quotas, and related matters thereto; the transportation of dutiable goods; deposit of public moneys; general revenue sharing; health programs under the Social Security Act, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund; and national social security.

Chair: Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) | @RonWyden

Ranking Member: Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) | @OrrinHatch

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

The Senate HELP Committee is composed of three subcommittees, which have broad jurisdiction over our country's health care, education, employment, and retirement policies.

Chair: Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) | @SenatorHarkin

Ranking Member: Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) | @SenAlexander

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Committee on Appropriations

The House Committee on Appropriations has a role that is defined by the U.S. Constitution, which requires "appropriations made by law" prior to the expenditure of any money from the Federal treasury. The committee writes the legislation that allocates federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments, and organizations on an annual basis. Appropriations are limited to the levels set by a Budget Resolution, drafted by the Senate Budget Committee. There are 12 subcommittees tasked with drafting legislation to allocate funds to government agencies within their jurisdictions.

Chair: Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY) | @RepHalRogers

Ranking Member: Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) | @NitaLowey

Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services, Education, and Related Services (LHHS)

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor and related agencies.

Chair: Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL) | @Robert_Aderholt

Ranking Member: Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) | @RepSamFarr

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Department of Agriculture (except Forest Service), Farm Credit Administration, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Chair: Representative Jack Kingston (R-GA) | @JackKingston

Ranking Member: Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) | @RosaDeLauro

For a full list of government departments and agencies, visit <http://www.usa.gov/directory/federal/>.

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House Committee on the Budget

The House Budget Committee determines fiscal priorities by creating the federal budget. The Budget Committees (including the Senate counterpart) are responsible for drafting Congress' annual budget plan and monitoring action on the budget for the federal government. In addition, the Budget Committees have jurisdiction over the operation of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Chair: Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) | @RepPaulRyan

Ranking Member: Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) | @ChrisVanHollen

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The House Energy and Commerce Committee is vested with the broadest jurisdiction of any Congressional authorizing authority. It has responsibility for the nation's telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health research, environmental quality, energy policy, and interstate and foreign commerce. It also oversees multiple cabinet-level Departments and independent agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Health and Human Services, Commerce, and Transportation as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission.

Chair: Representative Fred Upton (R-MI) | @RepFredUpton

Ranking Member: Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) | @WaxmanClimate

Subcommittee on Health

This subcommittee has jurisdiction over: public health and quarantine; hospital construction; mental health; biomedical research and development; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid) and private insurance; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; the regulation of foods, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.

Chair: Representative Joe Pitts (R-PA) | @RepJoePitts

Ranking Member: Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) | @FrankPallone

House Committee on Ways and Means

The House Ways and Means Committee is the chief tax-writing committee in the House of Representatives. The Committee derives a large share of its jurisdiction from the U.S. Constitution, which declares, "All Bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives." The Committee has jurisdiction over taxation, tariffs, and other revenue-raising measures as well as social security, unemployment benefits, Medicare, enforcement of child support laws, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and foster care and adoption programs.

Chair: Representative Dave Camp (R-MI) | @RepDaveCamp

Ranking Member: Representative Sander Levin (D-MI) | @repsandylevin

Key Federal Departments and Agencies

The United States federal government is comprised of many different agencies and departments, which are funded by the U.S. Congress. Several of these are critical to cancer prevention and early detection advocacy. Learn more about a few of these entities below.

For a full list of government departments and agencies, visit <http://www.usa.gov/directory/federal/>.

DEPARTMENTS

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The mission of HHS is to help provide the building blocks that Americans need to live healthy, successful lives. HHS fulfills that mission every day by providing millions of children, families, and seniors with access to high-quality health care, by helping people find jobs and parents find affordable child care, by keeping the food on Americans' shelves safe and infectious diseases at bay, and by pushing the boundaries of how we diagnose and treat disease.

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HHS is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

AGENCIES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ's mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.

AHRQ's priority areas of focus are:

- Improve health care quality by accelerating implementation of patient-centered outcomes research.
- Make health care safer.
- Increase accessibility to health care.
- Improve health care affordability, efficiency, and cost transparency.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC works to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, caused by human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

The CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation's health protection agency, the CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish their mission, the CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats, and responds when these arise.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS covers 100 million people through Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program and through the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS aims to achieve a high quality health care system, as well as better care at lower costs and improved health.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The FDA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, quality, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products, and medical devices. The FDA is also responsible for the safety and security of most of our nation's food supply, all cosmetics, dietary supplements, and products that give off radiation. The FDA also regulates tobacco products and is tasked with advancing the public health by helping to speed product innovations.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA, an agency of HHS, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care by strengthening the health care workforce, building healthy communities and achieving health equity. HRSA's programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable. This includes people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers, and their families and those in need of high quality primary health care. HRSA also supports the training of health professionals, the distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most and improvements in health care delivery.

HRSA oversees organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation. It compensates individuals harmed by vaccination, and maintains databases that protect against health care malpractice, waste, fraud and abuse.

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National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of HHS, is the nation's medical research agency—making important discoveries that improve health and save lives. Thanks in large part to NIH-funded medical research, Americans today are living longer and healthier. Life expectancy in the United States has jumped from 47 years in 1900 to 78 years as reported in 2009, and disability in people over age 65 has dropped dramatically in the past 3 decades. In recent years, nationwide rates of new diagnoses and deaths from all cancers combined have fallen significantly. The NIH is one of 11 agencies that compose the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The NIH is made up of 27 Institutes and Centers including the National Cancer Institute.

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) was established under the National Cancer Institute Act of 1937, and is the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and training. The National Cancer Act of 1971 broadened the scope and responsibilities of the NCI and created the National Cancer Program. Over the years, legislative amendments have maintained the NCI authorities and responsibilities and added new information dissemination mandates as well as a requirement to assess the incorporation of state-of-the-art cancer treatments into clinical practice.

NCI coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients.



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

This is the federal process, however the general steps apply to state government as well.

THE BILL IS DRAFTED.

A Senator or a Representative drafts a bill or a joint resolution with the goal of passing it into law.



THE BILL GOES TO THE PRESIDENT

The President must sign the bill into law.



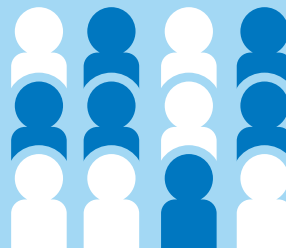
THE BILL IS INTRODUCED.

The bill is introduced in the U.S. Senate or in the U.S. House (or both) and receives a number.



THE BILL GOES TO CONFERENCE.

If the House and Senate versions of the bill differ, a conference committee must work out those differences and draft a final bill for a vote.



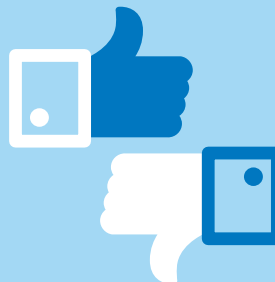
THE BILL IS REPORTED.

The committee must approve the bill and send it to the House or Senate floor for debate.



THE BILL IS VOTED ON.

In the U.S. House, the bill passes with a simple majority (218 of 435) as well as in the U.S. Senate (51 of 100).



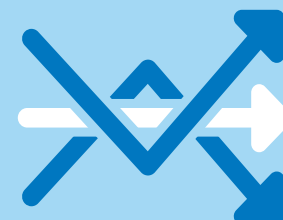
THE BILL IS DEBATED.

Members of Congress discuss why they support or oppose the bill.



THE BILL IS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE(S).

The committee members analyze and markup the bill before it can be sent to the House or Senate floor.



“I survived cancer.
Even as a former health care
professional, it was still a
frightening experience. As I
advocate for healthier lives, it
is humbling to have someone
say, ‘you changed my life or
you saved my life.’”

MARCELLE LEAHY, CANCER SURVIVOR &
PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

Generous support from the following has made the production of this toolkit possible:



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www.PreventCancer.org

1600 Duke Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314

P: (703) 836-4412 | F: (703) 836-4413 | E: Advocacy@PreventCancer.org