Advisory Council Hill Day
Overview of Advocacy Topics
Schedule

- 10:15 am  Political Climate 2019: Impacts on Congress and ASHA
- 10:45 am  Hill Day Legislative Priorities
- 11:30 am  Hill Day Logistical Overview
- 1:00 pm   Break-out Discussions on Hill Meetings
Political Climate 2019
Impacts on Congress and ASHA

Katheryn L. Boada, MA, CCC-SLP, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy
Jeffrey P. Regan, MA, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy
Agenda

• 2018 Mid-Term Election Results
• Election Takeaways
• Election Impacts
  • Congress/States
  • ASHA
• ASHA’s Public Policy Agenda
• Putting the Public Policy Agenda into Action
• Looking Ahead to 2020
2018 Mid-Term Election Results

- **House of Representatives**: Democrats picked up 40 seats (+17 majority)
- **Senate**: Republicans picked up 2 seats (+3 majority)
- **Governorships**: Democrats won 7 additional governorships nationwide
  - Republicans hold 27 seats
  - Democrats hold 23 seats
- **State Legislatures**: Democrats flipped 350 seats and 6 chambers
  - Republicans hold 23 “trifectas”
  - Democrats hold 14 “trifectas”
  - 13 states have divided government
  - 1 state (MN) has divided legislature
Election Takeaways

• Voter turnout (50.3%) was the highest since mid-term elections in 1914
• $5.2 billion spent – a 16% increase over the previous record ($4.4 billion in 2016)
• The President was clearly a political liability in suburban Congressional districts
• 127 women won races in Congress
• This was an election of “firsts”
  • youngest woman elected to Congress (Ocasio-Cortez in NY)
  • first Muslim women elected to Congress (Omar in MN, Tlaib in MI)
  • first Native American women elected to Congress (Davids in KS, Haaland in NM)
  • first openly gay Governor (Polis in CO)
Election Impacts

Congress/States

• **House of Representatives**
  - Democratic majority will be difficult to lead; strong disagreements exist over party direction, priorities, and policies
  - Republican minority is more conservative than the Republican majority in the previous Congress

• **Senate**
  - Republican majority is more conservative than in the previous Congress with leadership already showing deference to the President
  - Democratic minority is more liberal than in the previous Congress

• **Administration**
  - notably diminished support among swing voters; base support remains steady around 35%
  - no political leverage in House; limited leverage in Senate – leverage remains strongest for judicial appointments

• **States**
  - Red and Blue “trifecta” states likely to pursue divergent agendas with some exceptions (e.g., Medicaid)
  - Democrats gain some political leverage in Congressional redistricting in 2020
Election Impacts

ASHA

• **Congressional** passage *very unlikely*, but consideration *possible*, for bills that repeal/replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), reinstate the fine for the ACA individual mandate, end Medicaid expansion, eliminate Essential Health Benefits, or restrict states’ ability to implement work requirements for Medicaid.

• **Congressional** passage *unlikely*, but consideration *possible*, for bills that reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

• **Congressional** passage *possible*, but consideration *likely*, for bills that address coverage of services under Medicare and reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

• **Congressional** passage *likely* on appropriations measures that fund the government in fiscal year 2020, including programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act.

• **State** action *very likely* on so-called short-term limited duration insurance plans, Medicaid expansion, Medicaid work requirements, occupational licensure review, and private certification.
ASHA’s Annual Public Policy Agenda (PPA) identifies the “what” in terms of “what” public policy priorities are of importance to the professions in each given year.

Priorities for 2019 are categorized into 4 issue areas:
• Health Care Issues
• Schools Issues
• Professional Practice/Workforce Issues
• Patient, Client, and Student Issues

The Government Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) cluster identifies the “how” in terms of “how” the priorities of the PPA can be meaningfully advanced in the current political and fiscal climate.

GAPP establishes annual “issue objectives” to achieve that are directly tied to a PPA priority.
## Putting the PPA into Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Public Policy Agenda Priority</th>
<th>Issue Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for comprehensive coverage and equitable reimbursement of audiology and speech-language pathology services—including, but not limited to, early intervention and telepractice—by Medicare, Medicaid, and third party payers.</td>
<td>Secure introduction of legislative language that decouples physical therapy and speech-language pathology from the Medicare Part B manual medical review.</td>
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<td>Secure introduction of legislation that enhances access to and coverage of audiology services under Medicare.</td>
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### Putting the PPA into Action

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<td>Advocate for increased funding for audiology and speech-language pathology services— including, but not limited to, early intervention and telepractice—under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Every Student Succeeds Act, and Medicaid.</td>
<td>Seek full authorized funding in fiscal year 2020 for key IDEA initiatives.</td>
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## Putting the PPA into Action

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<td>Promote audiological health care services; safe devices for habilitation, rehabilitation, and prevention; and safe hearing environments.</td>
<td>Seek full authorized funding in fiscal year 2020 for state grants authorized by the Early Detection and Hearing Intervention Act.</td>
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Looking Ahead to 2020

“This is a multilevel chess game with more candidates than anyone has seen...”

Joe Trippi
Democratic Strategist
Questions
Hill Day Legislative Priorities

The Four “Asks” to Congress

Jeffrey P. Regan, MA, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy
Brian Altman, JD, Director of Federal and Political Affairs
Agenda

• Improve Access to Medicare Rehabilitation Services
• Promote Access to Education Services and Supports
• Enhance Access and Coverage of Audiology Services under Medicare
• Protect Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Initiatives
Medicare beneficiaries with multiple functional impairments deserve distinct access to speech-language pathology and physical therapy services to ensure medically necessary care.
Improve Access to Medicare Rehabilitation Services

The Details

• Congress took historic action in 2018 by eliminating the so-called “therapy cap” on services covered by Medicare Part B.
• However, the law still combines speech therapy and physical therapy monetary thresholds, maintaining a structural barrier against patients with multiple impairments (for example, strength, mobility, communication, swallowing, and cognition) by potentially limiting their access to medically necessary care.
Improve Access to Medicare Rehabilitation Services

The “Ask”

Ask your members of Congress to support forthcoming legislation that will create two distinct targeted medical review (TMR) thresholds to separate speech-language pathology from physical therapy, which will increase access to medically necessary rehabilitation services provided by speech-language pathologists and physical therapists.
Questions
Promote Access to Education Services and Supports

ACTION REQUESTED

• Support Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) full funding legislation and increase the federal funding for children with disabilities.

ISSUE: Current IDEA Funding Does Not Meet the Needs of Students

• Congress must do more to meet the needs of the country’s education system to ensure children with disabilities receive the free and appropriate public education they are entitled to under law.

• All children with disabilities have a right to a free and appropriate public education.

• While 20% of special education students have a speech or language impairment as their primary disability, 45% of special education students require treatment by a speech-language pathologist.

• Under the IDEA statute, federal funding should represent 40% of the average per-pupil expenditure in public elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States.

• 2019 federal funding of IDEA totals $13.4 billion, which is only 17% of authorized funding.

• Flat funding of the IDEA program threatens the ability to deliver a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities and leaves states with unfunded federal mandates.

• Changes in federal, state, and local tax deductibility rules have impacted school-based funding streams.
SOLUTION: Increase IDEA Funding & Protect Additional Funding Streams for School-Based Services

• Additional federal resources are needed to ensure states are in compliance with federal mandates to provide a free and appropriate public education to all children with disabilities. Congress must address school-based funding shortfalls through increased IDEA appropriations for FY2020 and beyond. IDEA funding should be increased annually until the federal expenditures reach authorized levels.
Questions
Enhance Access and Coverage of Audiology Services under Medicare

The Issue

Medicare currently does not cover treatment services provided by an audiologist, and imposes an unnecessary administrative burden on Medicare beneficiaries seeking services provided by an audiologist.
Enhance Access and Coverage of Audiology Services under Medicare

The Details

• Medicare covers only diagnostic services provided by an audiologist. This policy dates from a time when audiologists primarily provided only diagnostic services to patients, and is no longer compatible with the profession’s current evidence-based scope of practice.

• Medicare mandates that all beneficiaries obtain a physician referral when seeking services provided by an audiologist. This mandate is unique to Medicare, clinically unnecessary, and burdensome on the beneficiary.
Enhance Access and Coverage of Audiology Services under Medicare

The “Ask”

Ask your members of Congress to support forthcoming legislation that will enhance access and coverage of audiology services under Medicare by:

1) expanding coverage to include treatment services;
2) eliminating the physician referral requirement to access services, and;
3) reclassifying audiologists as “practitioners.”
Questions
Protect Early Hearing and Detection Intervention (EHDI) Initiatives

ACTION REQUESTED

• Support full funding of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) initiative that provides early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

ISSUE: State Early Hearing Detection Programs Require Annual Funding

• Last year, Congress reauthorized the EHDI Act for another five years.
• Approximately two to three out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears.
• States that receive EHDI grants have significantly increased the number of infants screened for hearing loss.
• Before the EHDI initiative began, only 46.5% of infants were screened for hearing loss.
• Now that the EHDI initiative exists, 98% of infants are screened for hearing loss.
• “Loss to follow-up” treatment (infants who exhibit hearing loss but do not receive follow-up services) continues to be a concern, with only 67.3% receiving early intervention treatment.
**SOLUTION: Fully Fund EHDI Through the Labor-HHS Appropriations Process**

- Continued federal support is necessary to ensure that EHDI initiatives are fully operational and successful by properly linking screening services with diagnosis and early intervention.

- ASHA is seeking full funding of EHDI for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 including $11.3M to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for implementation of the program and $18.6M to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for grants that support state-based EHDI systems.
Hill Day Logistical Overview

What To Expect Tomorrow

Brian Altman, JD, Director of Federal and Political Affairs
Erik Lazdins, Associate Director of Federal Affairs
Hill Day Folder

• On the right side of your folder, you will find:
  • The four issue briefs.
  • The cosponsor list from last Congress.
  • The current key committee rosters.

• Remember to collect leave-behind materials to bring to Capitol Hill.
Hill Day Folder (cont)

• On the left side of the folder you will find:

  • Schedule of events
  • Feedback forms
  • Map of Capitol Hill
  • Security Procedure Sheet
What happens in a meeting?

• Meetings generally take 10-20 minutes, depending on who you’re meeting with.
• Most meetings today will be with congressional staffers.

Remember S.P.I.T.
• Be specific about your request.
• Make it personal. Tell a story, give examples and anecdotes.
• Inform them about facts and statistics.
• Remember to be timely.
What happens in a meeting?

• Does the member of Congress support/oppose the issue?

• Prepare your elevator speech:
  ✓ Think of points to make around each issue
  ✓ Personal story or narrative connected to the issue
  ✓ Make a connection to back home

• Never be afraid to not know the answer (that’s what the lobbyists are for).

• Follow-up with a thank you and any information you promised to provide.
Logistics - Travel

- Erik Lazdins, Michelle Mannebach and Brian Altman will be riding down to the hotel with you all in three buses.

- Buses will leave the hotel promptly at 7:45 am, estimated arrival is 8:45 am.
Schedule of Events

• The group picture will be taken at 9:00 a.m. at Union Square, depending on traffic.

• Capitol Hill visits will last from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

• The Senate and House side are about 15 minutes apart from each other.

• The PAC reception will take place from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Charlie Palmer Steak.

• Buses will return to Gaithersburg at 6:30 p.m.
Feedback Forms

• In your folder you have a feedback form for each of the meetings you will attend.
• This form also has key information about the meeting such as time, location, and who you will be meeting with.
• It also has a small map showing you the location of the building where the meeting will be.
Logistics – Capitol Hill Security

• Capitol Hill office building procedures.

• Do not leave the building during a lockdown.

• Follow the directions of the Capitol Hill police.
Social Media

• Hill Day Hashtag – #ASHAHillDay
• Twitter – @ASHAAAdvocacy
• Facebook – @ASHAAAdvocacy
• Instagram – @ASHAWWeb
• After your meeting, highlight any key talking points or outcomes, tag and thank the MOC, and add the Hill Day hashtag.
• If you do take photos with your members of Congress, please remember to ask permission to post those online.
• Text me! 616-402-1980.
Instagram Story

• Running Monday, **March 4** only!
• Must tag @ashaweb in your Instagram story.
• Use #ASHAHillDay hashtag.
• Make sure your account is public (or we won't see your posts).

Thank you and see you on the Hill!
Lobbying Practice

• Take this time to:
  o Decide who will be the spokesperson.
  o Identify what issues you will present.
  o Determine:
    • What party do the members of Congress affiliate with?
    • Have they taken a position on the issue?
    • How will you present the issue?
    • Personal stories.

• ASHA’s Federal Team will be walking around and be available to answer questions.
Questions