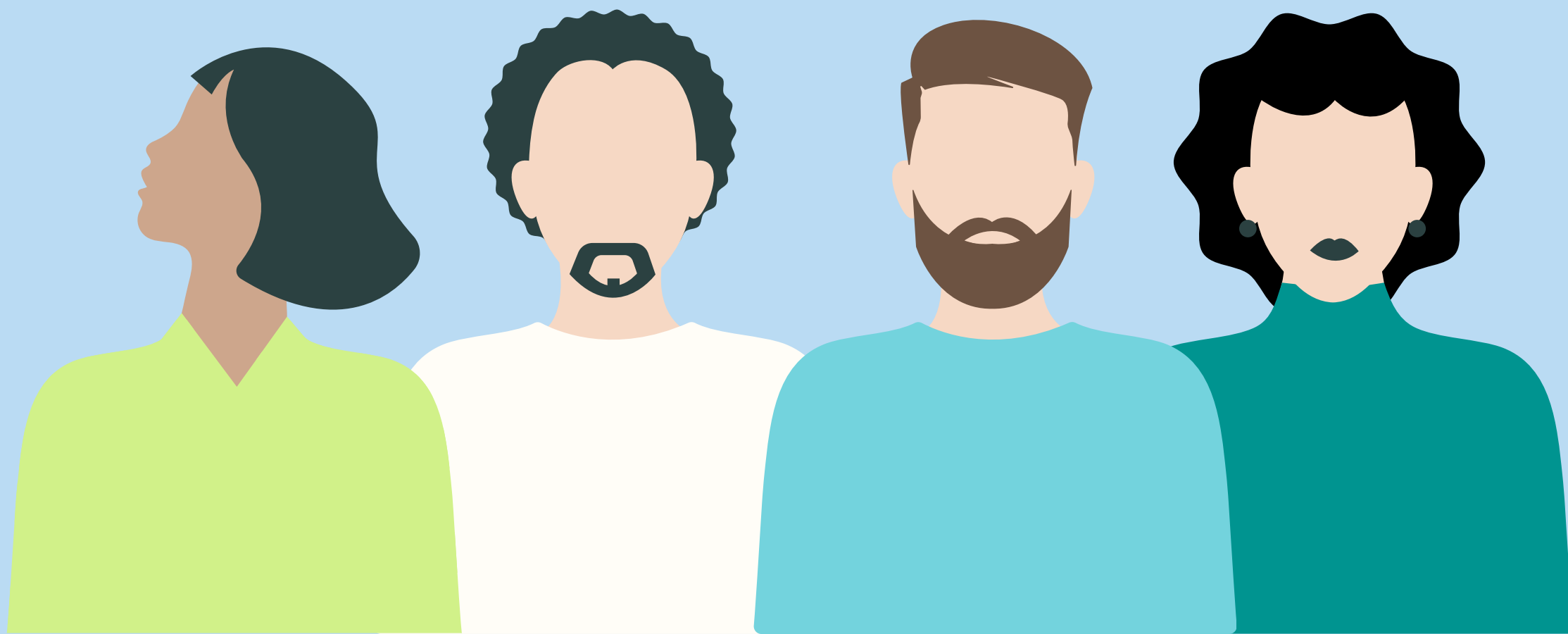


Preparing for Legislative Advocacy

A video series providing strategies for success



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Introduction to Advocacy & Congress

Module 1



Learning Agenda



What we'll cover

- What advocacy is and why it matters
- Overview of Congress
- Overview of the legislative process
- Understanding the federal budget and appropriations
- Researching legislators and understanding their positions

What is Legislative Advocacy?

Using your voice to share your lived experience, speaking on behalf of others, to bring the needs of a community to the attention of local, state, and federal government officials.

You only need 3 things:

- 1 A professional or lived experience
- 2 A steadfast commitment to your cause
- 3 A bit of political know-how



Advocacy & Why It Matters

Raising Awareness

Addressing Disparities

Empowering Patients

Easing The Burden Patients Experience

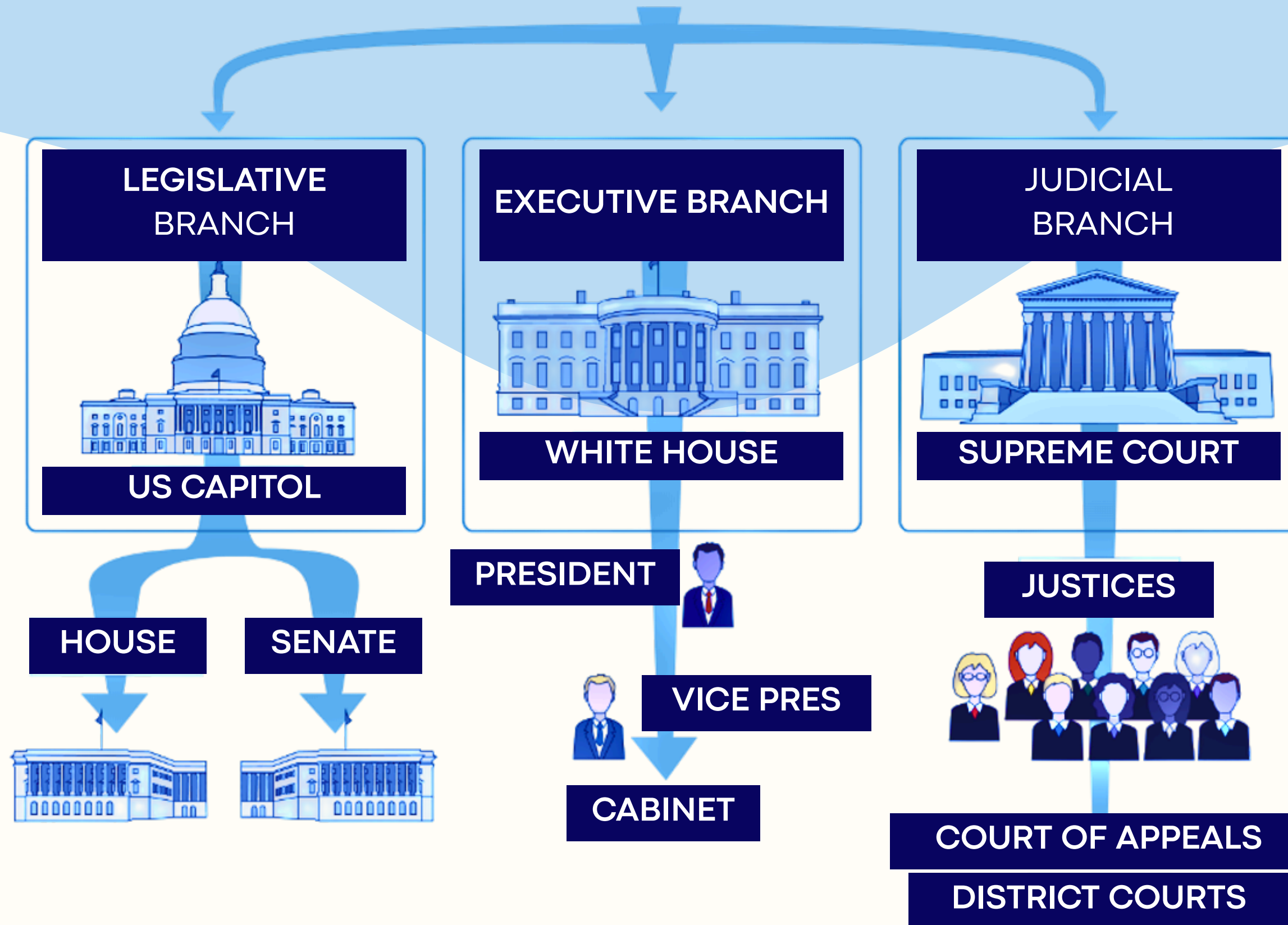
Protecting Patient Rights

Improving Quality Of Care

Impact Public Policy



The Federal Government



How Bills Pass Through Congress

Senate

- Introduced in the Senate
- Referred to Senate Committee
- Subcommittee Action
- Full Committee Action
- Senate Debates and Passes



House

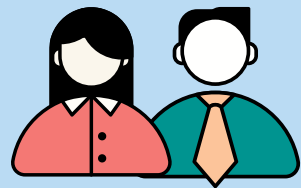
- Introduced in the House
- Referred to House Committee
- Subcommittee Action
- Full Committee Action
- House Debates and Passes

Senate and House Members
Reach Compromise

Senate and House Approve
Compromise

President Signs Into Law or
Vetoes Bill

Funding Terminology



Authorization vs. Appropriation

- *Authorizations are for programs and policies
- *Appropriations are for funding to support them



Discretionary Spending vs. Mandatory Spending

Appropriations bills only cover discretionary spending
Mandatory spending (60%) of includes Social Security, Medicare payments and veterans' benefits



Calendar Year vs. Fiscal Year

The calendar year runs from January 1st to December 31st
The fiscal year runs from October 1st to September 30th

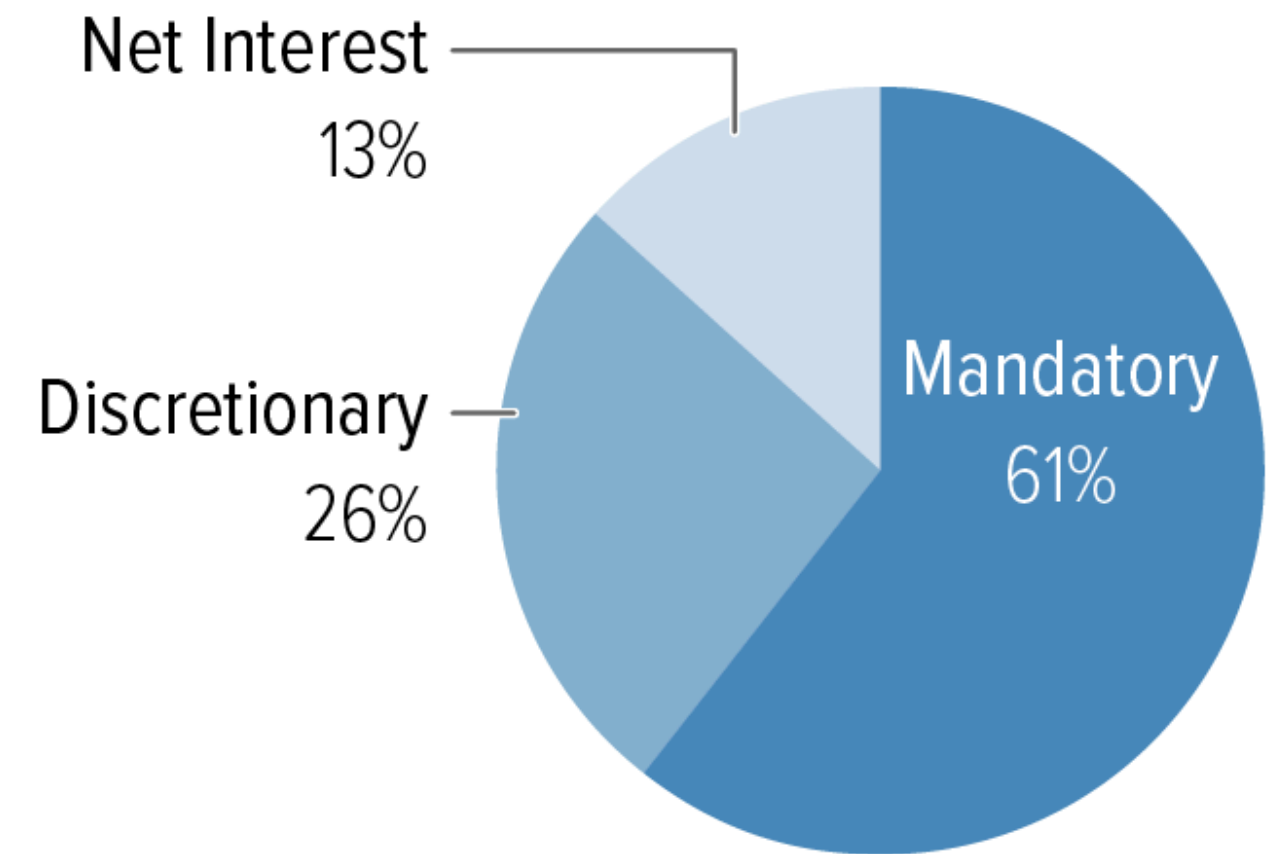
Congressional Budget

Breakdown of Spending

Appropriations bills fund the discretionary portions of the federal budget, such as education, defense, and housing.



Components of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2024



Source: Congressional Budget Office with effect of certain timing anomalies removed, June 2024

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

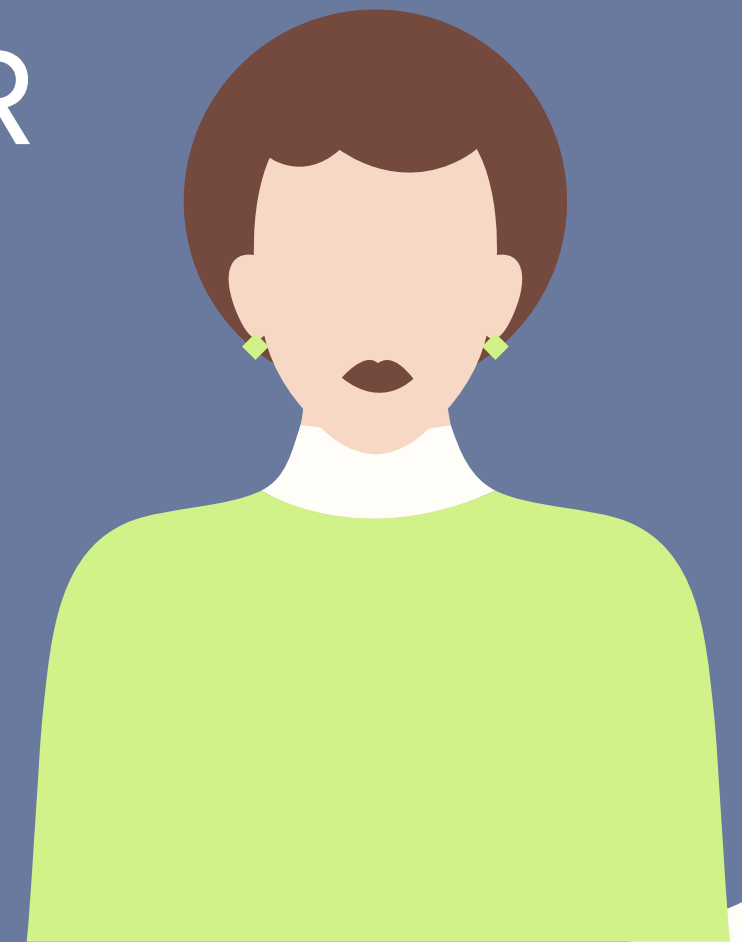
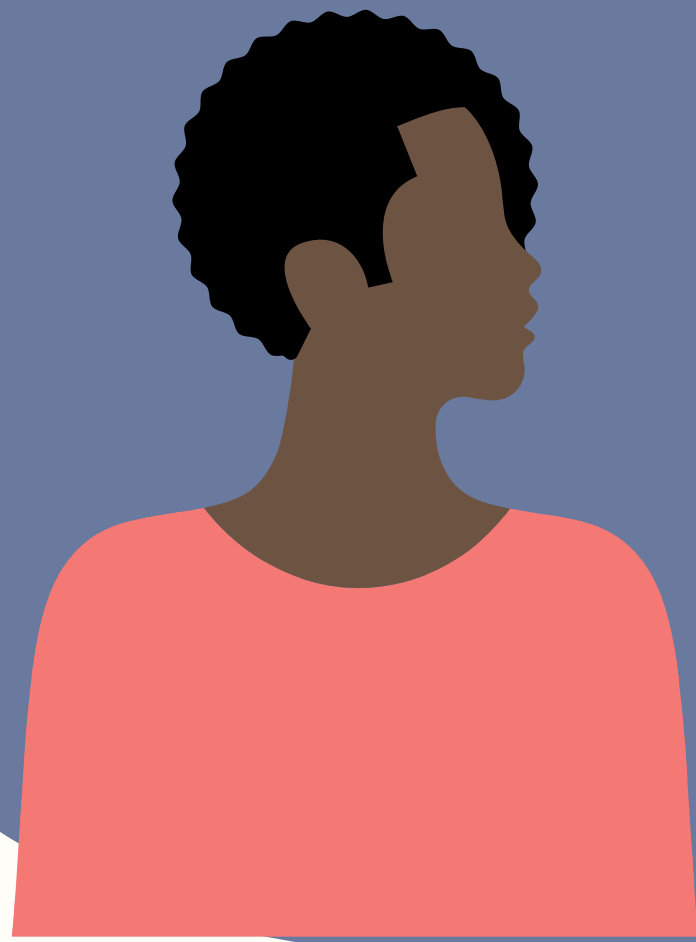
Discretionary Spending for Health Related Services

-  Research
-  Clinical Training
-  Public Health Measures
-  Global Health
-  Grants & Cooperative Agreements



Relationship Building

CONNECTING WITH YOUR
CONGRESS MEMBER



Building A Relationship With Your Representatives



- Helps lawmakers recognize and address our concerns
- Meetings with staff can be just as impactful as meeting with the representative
- The Bobby Jones CSF meetings are a key part of relationship-building

Preparation- Know Your Congress Member

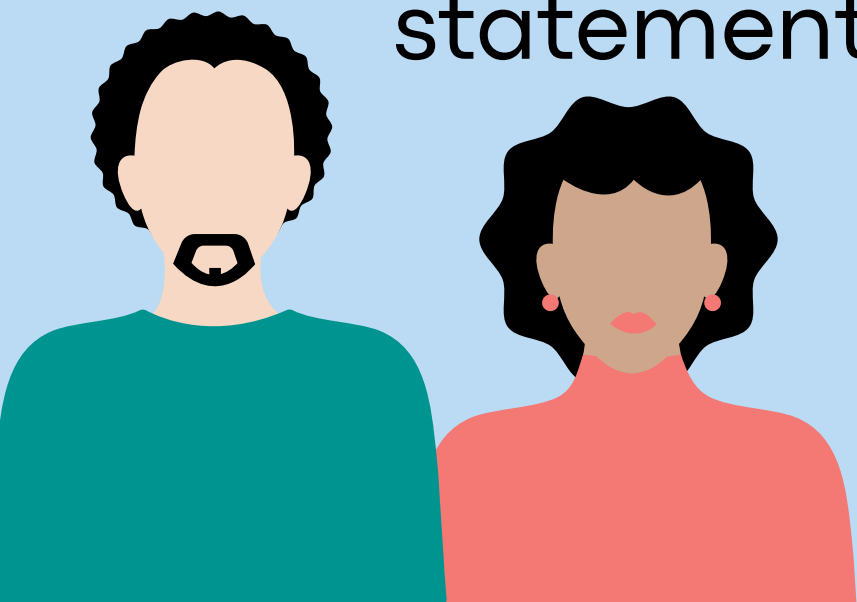
Get To Know Your Legislator

- Issues most important to them
- Bills they have sponsored and co-sponsored
- Committees and/or caucuses they are on
- Press releases and public statements

Websites

- Official Congress Directory of Members
- Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives
- Official US Senate Website Directory
- Law Maker's website

Remember that they are parents, siblings, friends, volunteers, etc. and not just Members of Congress or staff.



Gathering Information

Congress Member Snapshot

Basic Information:

Name: _____ Party: _____
D.C. Address: _____ Phone: _____
Local Address: _____ Phone: _____
Year Elected: _____ Term Expires: _____ Birthday: _____
Hometown: _____ Spouse: _____
Education: _____
Past Political Positions: _____

Committees:

• _____
• _____
• _____

Caucuses:

• _____
• _____
• _____

Sponsored Bills:

• _____
• _____

Information To Consider

- Basic Information
- Past Political Positions
- Committees
- Subcommittees
- Caucuses
- Sponsored Bills
- Co-sponsored Bills
- Voting Record
- Recent Press Releases



● [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)

● [GovTrack.us](https://www.govtrack.us)

● [OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org)

Importance of Researching Your Law Maker

Focus on areas of legislation important to your cause

Note information that may be useful in your meetings

Opportunity to thank them for legislation

Shows you know your legislator

Senator Mark Warner-Democrat



The Honorable Mark Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2023

Sworn in: January 3, 2009
Reelected Nov. 2020

Term Expires: 2027

Hometown: Alexandria

Born: Dec. 15, 1954 (age 66 years)

Education: Graduated as valedictorian from George Washington University, the first in his family to graduate from college; Graduated from Harvard Law School with a Juris Doctor in 1980

Previous Political Appointments:

Governor of Virginia (2002–2006),
Virginia Democratic Party chairman
(1993–1995)

Committees

- Senate Committee on Intelligence (Chairman)
- Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs
- Finance Committee
- Budget Committee
- Rules & Administration Committee

Caucuses (29 Total, Co-Chair of 5)

- Co-chair and founder of the Senate Cybersecurity Caucus
- Senate Democratic Caucus
- Co-Chair Senate India Caucus
- Co-Chair Aerospace Caucus
- Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
- **NOT a member of the Rare Disease Congressional Caucus**

Recently Enacted Legislation

Senator Warner's Sponsored Legislation (90 total)

During the 116th Congress (2019–2020), Senator Warner's top policy areas in which he sponsored bills*:

1. Health (10)
2. Government Operations & Policies (8)
3. Taxation (8)

Senator Warner's Co-Sponsored Legislation (394 total)

Senator Warner's top policy areas in which he co-sponsored bills*:

1. Government Operations & Policies (45)
2. International Affairs (38)
3. Health (25)

*Number in parentheses indicate number of bills sponsored or co-sponsored

Health Issues:

- Committed to providing access to quality, affordable care for Virginians. Warner has consistently said that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is not perfect, but our previous system was unsustainable and would eventually bankrupt our economy.
- Sponsored bills in the 116th Congress to protect Americans with pre-existing conditions, reduce health care costs, and expand coverage.
- Sponsored the Preserving Patient Access to Home Infusion Act which includes pharmacy services and certain self-administered drugs as part of covered home infusion therapy under Medicare
- Sponsored a bill that reauthorizes, and extends funding for, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) through FY2029. The bill also makes other changes related to the institute, such as (1) requiring health insurance plans to cover routine costs for items and services furnished in connection with certain PCORI-funded clinical trials, and (2) directing the Government Accountability Office to review barriers experienced by PCORI researchers when conducting studies or clinical trials.
- Working to address the opioid crisis across the Commonwealth by including more counties in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, which facilitates information-sharing and coordination between federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement branches with the goal of reducing the sale of illegal drugs and addressing the opioid crisis.
- He introduced the SAME Act in the 116th Congress, which would ensure Virginia receives its fair share of Medicaid funding that is crucial to many rural hospitals.

Recent News:

- U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine announced \$46,328,480 in federal funding to support affordable housing development in 26 municipalities across Virginia.
- Feb. 22, 2021- U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) today announced \$179,010,000 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Virginia.
- Feb. 8, 2021- U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) announced \$4,000,000 in federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority to help expand access to and improve the quality of mental health and substance abuse programs.
- Feb. 4, 2021- Warner & Warnock Lead Colleagues in Introducing Bill to Promote Health Care Access and Bring Crucial Federal Dollars to States

Additional Links:

<https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/>
https://ballotpedia.org/Mark_Warner
<https://www.facebook.com/MarkRWarner/>
<https://markwarnerva.com/>

Key Points

- 01 Congress is divided into two chambers: House and Senate, each with a similar process for passing laws and allocating funds.
- 02 Discretionary funding is applied through Appropriations that are passed every year, while Mandatory funding is applied every year unless changed by new legislation
- 03 Your Congress members work for you and their other constituents. Researching their roles, positions, and platforms helps you craft a message that connects with their interests.
- 04 Anyone can be an advocate and make a difference for not only you or your family, but for many people who can't advocate for themselves..



HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

1 EVERY LAW STARTS WITH AN IDEA



That idea can come from anyone, even you! Contact your elected officials to share your idea. If they want to try to make it a law, they will write a bill.

2 THE BILL IS INTRODUCED

A bill can start in either house of Congress when it's introduced by its primary sponsor, a Senator or a Representative. In the House of Representatives, bills are placed in a wooden box called "the hopper."



Here, the bill is assigned a legislative number before the Speaker of the House sends it to a committee.

3 THE BILL GOES TO COMMITTEE

Representatives or Senators meet in a small group to research, talk about, and make changes to the bill. They vote to accept or reject the bill and its changes before sending it to:

the House or Senate floor for debate or to a subcommittee for further research.

4 CONGRESS DEBATES AND VOTES

Members of the House or Senate can now debate the bill and propose changes or amendments before voting. If the majority vote for and pass the bill, it moves to the other house to go through a similar process of committees, debate, and voting. Both houses have to agree on the same version of the final bill before it goes to the President.



DID YOU KNOW?

The House uses an electronic voting system while the Senate typically votes by voice, saying "yay" or "nay."

5 PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

When the bill reaches the President, he or she can:

✓ APPROVE and PASS

The President signs and approves the bill. The bill is law.

THE BILL IS LAW



The President can also:

Veto

The President rejects the bill and returns it to Congress with the reasons for the veto. Congress can override the veto with 2/3 vote of those present in both the House and the Senate and the bill will become law.

Choose no action

The President can decide to do nothing. If Congress is in session, after 10 days of no answer from the President, the bill then automatically becomes law.

Pocket veto

If Congress adjourns (goes out of session) within the 10 day period after giving the President the bill, the President can choose not to sign it and the bill will not become law.

Congress Member Snapshot

Basic Information:

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D.C. Address: _____ Phone: _____

Local Address: _____ Phone: _____

Year Elected: _____ Term Expires: _____ Birthday: _____

Hometown: _____ Spouse: _____

Education: _____

Past Political Positions: _____

Committees:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Caucuses:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Sponsored Bills:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Co-Sponsored Bills:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Recent News & Press Releases:

Legislative Priorities:

Sponsored Legislation

Policy Area	Number of Bills

Co-Sponsored Legislation

Policy Area	Number of Bills

Recent Key Votes:

Major Donors:
