

Healthcare policy in an evolving political landscape: How does this impact urologists and what is our responsibility?

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Disclosures

- Cook
- Boston Scientific
- Aurasense
- Former AUA Public Policy Chair
- Trustee of the American Board of Urology



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118th Congress

Every two years, Americans re-elect one third of the U.S. Senate and all members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

- U.S. Senate (100 seats) = 49 Republican/48 Democrats/3 Independents
 - 75 male
 - 25 female
- U.S. House (435 seats) = 222 Republicans/212 Democrats/1 Vacant
 - 311 male
 - 124 female
- 29 medical professionals in Congress
 - 25 House/4 Senate
 - 23 Republicans/6 Democrats
 - Two urologists – Rep. Neal Dunn, MD (R-FL-02) and Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC-03)



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118th Congress “To-Do” Health Care List

- ***Unwinding the Public Health Emergency (PHE)/Telehealth Reform***
- Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) Reauthorization
- Insulin Affordability Legislation/Other Drug Pricing Reform
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health/Opioids/Fentanyl Reform
- ***Medicare Advantage Prior Authorization Reform***
- ***Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Oversight/Reforms***
- FDA Provisions Initially Excluded During Reauthorization (i.e., dietary supplements, clinical trial design, cosmetics reforms, etc.)
- ***Implementation of IRA Drug Pricing Reforms / Cost cap***
- Increased Oversight Hearings/Investigations on COVID-19 Response
- ***Health Care Workforce***



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What impact does the political process have on our specialty?

- Administrative burden
 - Prior authorization, step therapy, narrow networks (HMO model)
- Regulatory interference that impacts a urologist's ability to provide quality care and access to care
 - USPSTF (Coverage of preventative screenings (ex. PSA screening))
- Workforce and research funding preservation
 - GME frozen since 1997
 - NIH / NIDDK
- Annual Medicare physician fee schedule rule

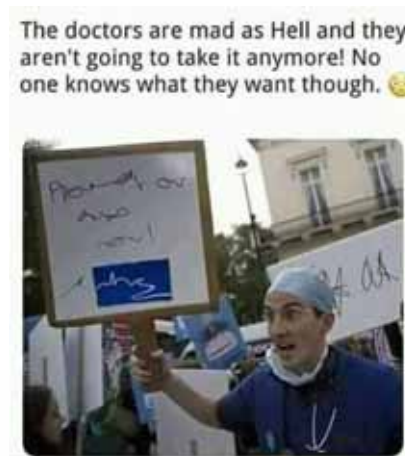


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What is our responsibility?

- ***Our responsibility is to get involved in the political process***
- ***Promote and preserve the ability of urologists to provide evidence based care for our patients without regulatory interference or administrative burden***



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What is advocacy versus lobbying?

- **Advocacy** - *the act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, policy; active support* American Heritage dictionary 2018
 - Mostly federal and state legislators, occasionally regulators

- **Lobbying** - term originated from people waiting in a lobby to approach lawmakers
 - Willard hotel
 - Form of advocacy which is an attempt to *influence* decisions made by officials in the government
 - Legislators versus regulatory officials
 - Industry accounts for nearly 4 billion dollars annually
 - Approximately 11, 500 lobbyists in 2022



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Top Industries That Lobby (2022 election cycle)	Total
Pharmaceuticals/Health Products	\$283,900,088
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$164,675,004
Insurance	\$122,150,903
Securities & Investment	\$101,902,997
Health Services / HMOs	\$91,439,054
Oil and Gas	\$91,287,264
Hospitals	\$90,276,482
Air Transport	\$88,169,281
Health Professionals	\$72,688,531
Education	\$68,465,134

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Top Recipients of Contributions from Lobbyists, 2022 Cycle

Recipient	From Lobbyists	From Lobbyists + Family
Charles E Schumer (D-NY)	\$715,867	\$774,167
Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif)	\$505,423	\$509,423
Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	\$463,613	\$481,263
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev)	\$402,294	\$420,879
Tim Ryan (D-Ohio)	\$392,520	\$412,867
Patty Murray (D-Wash)	\$384,112	\$398,212
John Thune (R-SD)	\$339,328	\$343,828
Ron Wyden (D-Ore)	\$311,353	\$324,953
Liz Cheney (R-Wyo)	\$310,040	\$323,340
Raphael Warnock (D-Ga)	\$289,100	\$305,790
Tim Scott (R-SC)	\$281,354	\$298,104

- Elections are expensive
 - House Seat \$1.7 M
 - Senate Seat \$10.5 M
 - President \$14 B

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How do organizations gain access to legislators?

- Political Action Committee (PAC)
 - Group formed by an industry or an issue-oriented organization to raise and contribute money to the campaigns of candidates likely to advance the group's interests
 - PAC pools after-tax donations from members
 - Lobbyists direct funds based on strategy
 - Selectively distributed to legislator's campaign, campaign for or against legislators, or ballot initiatives



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What does organized Urology do ?

- AUA has a full-time presence in Washington, DC
 - Five registered federal lobbyists
 - One dedicated state advocacy manager
 - Outside consultant group based on Capitol Hill
- Member of over 27 different physician-led coalitions
 - AACU and LUGPA
- Promote member involvement through ...
 1. Legislative priority survey
 2. AUA Summit
 3. AUAPAC



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AUA legislative priorities survey

- Biannual survey for members
- Priorities approved by the Legislative affairs committee and the AUA board
 - For more information contact: legislativeaffairs@AUAnet.org
- Serves as a guide for the AUA's advocacy efforts at both the state and federal levels
 - Does not limit or restrict the policy issues the AUA may consider



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AUA Federal Legislative Priorities 2023

- Promote permanent reforms for Medicare physician payment and reimbursement
- Reduce administrative burdens (prior authorization and step therapy, medical malpractice that negatively impact the practice of medicine and patient care.
- Advocate to ensure access to telehealth services as an alternative healthcare delivery model in urology to address access to care and healthcare equity
- Advocate for the full spectrum of prostate cancer care including, research, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) reform, PSA screenings, and treatments for all patients.
- Address the needs of the urological workforce



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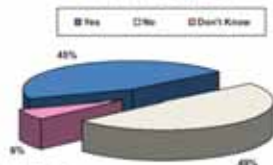
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AUA Position on Reproductive Rights

The AUA released results from a member-based survey on Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v Wade in the January 2023 edition of AUA News.

- A total of 1,653 responses were collected for a total response rate of 12.15%.

Should the AUA Develop Positions on Social Issues that are Not Predominantly in the Traditional Urology Clinical and Practice Space?



Base: Total Urology Members (N=1,653)
 Question: Do you want the AUA to develop positions on social issues that are not predominantly in the traditional urology clinical and practice space (e.g., gun control, abortion rights, climate change)?

Should the AUA Develop Positions on Social Issues that are Not Predominantly in the Traditional Urology Clinical and Practice Space?

Q.1 Segmentation Analysis													
AUA Member Category										Gender			
Year	Age	Academic	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Academic Rank	Male	Female	Total
2022	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2021	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2020	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2019	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2018	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2017	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2016	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2015	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2014	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2013	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2012	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
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2007	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2006	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2005	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2004	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2003	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2002	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2001	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2000	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2009	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2008	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2007	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2006	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
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2002	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2001	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653
2000	45%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	50%	50%	1,653

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- “House of Urology” convenes to advocate on the Hill
 - Attendees
- Advocacy topics
 - 15 different subspecialty groups (All 8 AUA sections)
- Hill advocacy visits with 3-4 “asks”
 - Patient advocacy groups
 - Strikeforce visits to agencies
 - NIH, VA, FDA



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- Launched in January 2019
- Bipartisan support
- Represents the entire urology community
 - 117 donors in 2022
- Board of Directors
 - Advocacy priorities determined
- PAC limited to \$10,000 donation per candidate



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2021-2022 AUAPAC Candidates



AUAPAC targeted giving to Congressional Committees of Jurisdiction over Urology Issues

House ways and means and House energy and finance

Senate Finance, and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Scoring system used



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AUA Advocacy Accomplishments - 2022

- Mitigated 3.75% payment cut for CY 22 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
 - CY 2023 mitigated 4.5% cut to 2%
- Enacted the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act (S. 2720/H.R. 4880). Secured \$15 million increase for Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
- Introduced Specialty Physicians Advancing Rural Care Act (S. 4330/H.R. 944)
 - Student loan repayment program for specialty physicians in rural areas
- Illinois house bill 5318 requires insurers to cover prostate cancer screening costs
 - NY, Maryland, RI



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Summary

- Its our responsibility to get involved in the political process
- Preserve the ability to provide care for our patients without regulatory interference or administrative burden
- Ways to get involved
 - Legislative survey
 - AUA Summit
 - AUAPAC



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