



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Advocacy Basics

February 9, 2023

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Agenda for Today's Zoom Meeting

1. **Welcome**
2. **Why Advocate?**
3. **Goals of CHD**
4. **How to Prepare for CHD and What to Expect?**
5. **Capitol Hill Environment**
6. **How a Bill Becomes a Law**
7. **Best Practices**

Introduction: What is FASEB?

- **A federation of 28 societies**
- **Representing over 115,000 researchers**
- **Our Mission...**

Advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy

Why Advocate? Why Advocate?

- **Exercising your First Amendment right to petition your government**
- **Not at the table. You're on the menu.**
- **Members of Congress want to hear from their constituents**
- **Direct constituent interactions have more influence on lawmakers' decisions than other advocacy strategies**
- **Give decisionmakers facts/ perspectives they don't have so they can make key policy decisions that impact you/your organization**

FASEB Capitol Hill Day Goals

■ Short-term

- Share information with Capitol Hill offices about biological and biomedical research
- Encourage legislators to support robust increases in funding for NIH, NSF, and other science agencies

■ Longer-term

- Develop relationships with your elected officials
- Help them understand the broad importance of biomedical science to their states/congressional districts
- Demonstrate how science can solve universal problems impacting humans and living systems

How to Prepare for CHD for CHD

- **Visit your Senators/Representatives' website or Twitter feed to review their recent activity**
- **FASEB will provide talking points and funding data**
- **In addition, we encourage you to:**
 - Gather material from your university/institution
 - Brochures, infographics, press releases
 - Attach copies of materials to your follow up email to offices
 - Prepare bullet points describing how your research:
 - Improves health and/or benefits patients
 - Produces new knowledge and innovations
 - Supports jobs locally

Find Your Elected Officials

Go to:

[Legislative Action Center | FASEB](https://www.faseb.org/partnerships-and-outreach/legislative-action-center)

Legislative Action Center | FASEB

https://www.faseb.org/partnerships-and-outreach/legislative-action-center

Association Manag... FASEB Intranet Microsoft Outlook... Other favorite

Legislative Action Center

HOME / PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH / LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

URGE CONGRESS TO COMPLETE FY 2022 GOVERNMENT FUNDING

As Congress winds down for the year, the important work of funding the U.S. Government for FY 2022 remains unfinished. All federal agencies are operating under a "continuing resolution" (CR) until February 18, 2022. The consequences of funding delays and long-term...

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Legislative Action Center



Representative Jamie Raskin
Democrat-MD-008

Contact

Personal

Political

Staff

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Capitol Phone	(202) 225-5341
District Address	51 Monroe St Ste 503 Rockville, MD 20850
District Phone	(301) 354-1000
Web Site	https://raskin.house.gov/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/RepRaskin
Twitter	http://www.twitter.com/repraskin
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/RepRaskin

The Environment on Capitol Hill

Control of 118th Congress and Partisanship

- Senate is 51 Democrats to 49 Republicans
- House Republicans have a razor-thin majority after the midterm elections did not deliver the big landside Republicans had expected in the House. 222 Republicans to 212 Dems
- Speaker Kevin McCarthy can only afford to lose 4 votes to pass bills in the House
- Each party has its own factions it must balance

Legislative Focus for first session of the 118th Congress

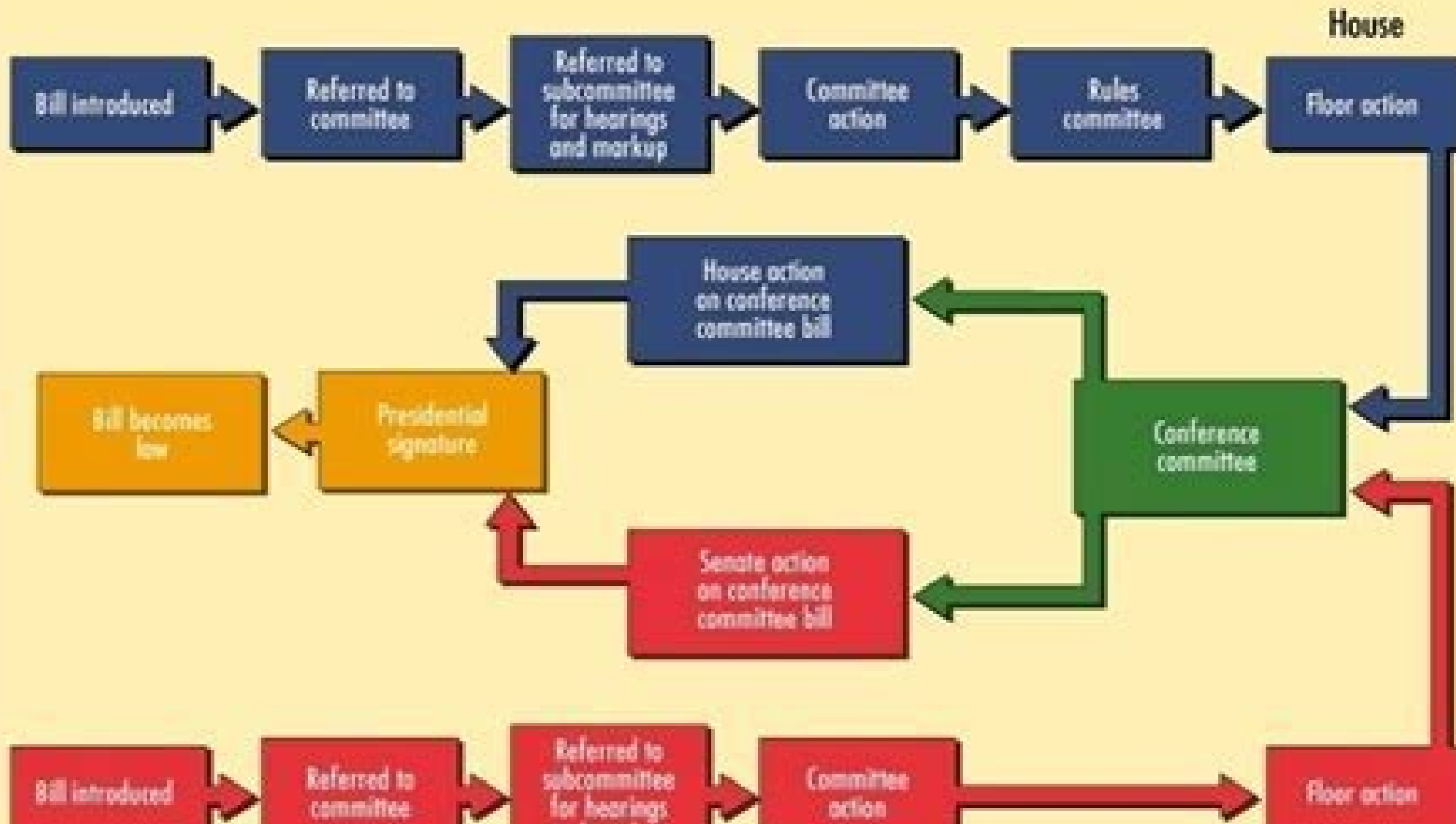
- Debt ceiling resolution and negotiated cuts to federal spending as demanded by conservative House Republicans in exchange for their votes to elect McCarthy speaker
- FY 2024 Appropriations bills must pass and become law by Sept. 30 or there will be a CR
- Oversight hearings especially on COVID's origins, federal pandemic spending, China and US competition will take place
- Immigration reform
- 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization that supports agricultural research
- COVID-19 variants, pandemic preparedness

Congressional Staff

- **Chief of Staff:** Oversees the legislator's office, provides legislative, policy, and political counsel, and assists with Washington, DC, and district office operations.
- **Legislative Director:** Manages the legislative team, prioritizes legislative efforts, and directs the policy agenda.
- **Legislative Assistant (LA):** Serves as the policy expert on an issue or portfolio of issues. Examples include agriculture, budget, education, health, military (typically referred to as "MLA"), taxes, transportation, etc.

How a Bill Becomes Law

How a Bill Becomes a Law



Best Practices in Advocacy: Do's

■ Know your audience

- Do your homework! Visit elected officials' websites, social media channels, etc.
- Be empathetic to difficulties staff are having getting up to speed

■ Be brief

■ Be respectful of staffer's time and attention

■ Speak to your advocacy priority up front

■ Follow up with

- Thank you's
- Your contact information
- Offers to be a resource

Best Practices in Advocacy: Don'ts

- **Offer a science lecture**
- **Recite your CV**
- **Give a “pop quiz”**
- **Use scientific jargon/overly technical language**
- **Rely on stereotypes based on political affiliations or specific actions**
- **Argue**
- **Get discouraged**

**THANK YOU for
Participating!**



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