

# **AAPD 2020 Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference**

**Your Congress 101 Quiz  
(plus a few fun facts)**



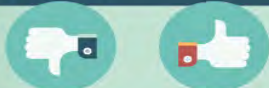
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# THE US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

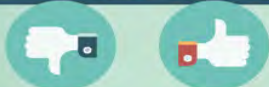
## SENATE

A BILL IS INTRODUCED BY A MEMBER OF THE SENATE AND ASSIGNED TO A COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

THE COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS, AMEND, AND VOTE ON THE BILL.



IF APPROVED, BILL PROCEEDS TO THE FULL SENATE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, AMENDMENTS, AND VOTING.



PRESIDENT SIGNS THE BILL AND IT BECOMES A LAW.

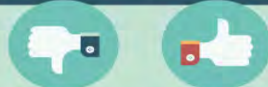
IT STARTS WITH AN IDEA...



BILLS MUST PASS THROUGH BOTH CHAMBERS BEFORE BEING SENT TO THE PRESIDENT.

A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, MADE OF MEMBERS OF BOTH CHAMBERS, MEETS TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE VERSIONS OF THE BILL.

BOTH CHAMBERS VOTE ON FINAL BILL



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL IS INTRODUCED BY A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND ASSIGNED TO A COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

THE COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS, AMEND, AND VOTE ON THE BILL.



IF APPROVED, BILL PROCEEDS TO THE FULL HOUSE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, AMENDMENTS, AND VOTING.



THE VETO CAN BE OVERRIDDEN BY CONGRESS WITH A 2/3 VOTE.

VETO

PRESIDENT VETOES THE BILL AND SENDS IT BACK TO CONGRESS.

# How a Bill Becomes a Law

- \* After introduction in the House of Representatives or Senate, the bill is referred to a committee(s) of jurisdiction.
- \* Committees are critical in the process.



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# Chair and Party

**Which party currently has the Majority in the House?**



# Chair and Party

**Which party currently has the Majority in the Senate?**



# Chair and Party

**The Committee Chair is:**

- A) The only committee member allowed to sit down during a hearing
- B) The person who chairs the committee and is from the Majority party



# Ranking Member of a committee

- A) Especially foul-smelling
- B) In charge of ranking teams in the Congressional basketball league
- C) One with most committee seniority of all minority party members on a committee
- D) A member who has been slammed on Twitter by President Trump





# Key Health-Related Committees

## Senate:

- \* Appropriations Committee-Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (\$)
- \* Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee-Subcommittee on Children, Youth, and Families (authorizing)
- \* Finance Committee-(Medicaid and Medicare, Taxes)





# Key Health-Related Committees

## House:

- \* Appropriations Committee-Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (\$)
- \* Energy and Commerce Committee-Subcommittee on Health (authorizing, Medicaid)
- \* Ways and Means (Medicare, Taxes)



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

- \* The bill is voted on by committee in a “mark-up” and if approved is reported to the House or Senate.
- \* The bill goes to the House/Senate floor for debate, amendments, and vote.
- \* If approved by both Houses, with differences reconciled in conference committee if needed.



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

Which body usually has time limits for floor debate and which can have unlimited debate?



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

When members try to defeat a measure by “talking it to death” it’s called a \_\_\_\_\_?



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

Can members of the House the Representatives vote on a bill by saying “aye” or “no,” or must they stand up and be counted as supporting or opposing a bill?



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

- \* The Bill Goes To The President, who can sign or veto the bill.



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

True or false: A President can sometimes veto a bill by doing nothing.





# How a Bill Becomes a Law

If the President vetoes the bill, how many (or what fraction) of Representatives and Senators are needed to override the President's veto?



# Staff Members You May Meet

## Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff reports directly to the member of Congress. He/she usually has overall responsibility for evaluating the political outcome of various legislative proposals and constituent requests. The Chief of Staff is usually the person in charge of overall office operations, including the assignment of work and the supervision of key staff.



# Staff Members You May Meet

## Legislative Director, Policy Advisor, Legislative Assistant, Legislative Coordinator, or Legislative Aide

The Legislative Director is usually the staff person who monitors the legislative schedule and makes recommendations regarding the pros and cons of particular issues. In congressional offices there are usually several Legislative Assistants and responsibilities are assigned to staff with particular expertise in specific areas. **For example, depending on the responsibilities and interests of the member, an office may include a different staff person for appropriations, banking, education, health, environment, Medicare/Medicaid, military, taxes, veterans' affairs, etc.**



# Staff Members You May Meet

## **Press Secretary or Communications Director**

The Press Secretary's responsibility is to build and maintain open and effective lines of communication between the member, his/her constituency, and the general public. The Press Secretary is expected to know the benefits, demands, and special requirements of both print and electronic media, and how to most effectively promote the member's views or position on specific issues.



# Staff Members You May Meet

## **Appointment Secretary, Personal Secretary, or Scheduler**

The Appointment Secretary is usually responsible for allocating a member's time among the many demands that arise from congressional responsibilities, staff requirements, and constituent requests. The Appointment Secretary may also be responsible for making necessary travel arrangements, arranging speaking dates, visits to the district, etc.



# Staff Members You May Meet

## Caseworker

The Caseworker is the staff member usually assigned to help with constituent requests by preparing replies for the member's signature. The Caseworker's responsibilities may also include helping resolve problems constituents present in relation to federal agencies, e.g., Social Security and Medicare issues, veteran's benefits, passports, etc. There are often several Caseworkers in a congressional office.

- \* **Other titles used in a congressional office may include: Executive Assistant, Legislative Correspondent, Executive Secretary, Office Manager, and Receptionist.**



# Getting to Know a Legislator

Research the legislator's background

- \* Are there local connections (school, church, civic, sports, etc.)? *E.g. do you treat their children, grandchildren, relatives, etc. in your practice?*
- \* There are also detailed websites with biographies of Members of Congress and state legislators (or just read Wikipedia).





# Best Ways to Get to Know a Legislator?

- Threaten to support their opponent if they don't support your bill.
- Offer to serve on a legislator's local committee.
- Give a legislator an award.
- Lambast them on social media if you disagree with their position.
- Invite a legislator to speak at your group's meeting.
- Hang out near the driveway of their home holding up a sign.
- Invite a legislator to visit your pediatric dental office.
- Pester them with e-mails 3 times a day.
- Give money to their campaign.



# Congressional Visits Tuesday and Wednesday

- \* You'll receive a complete briefing tomorrow with talking points, tips, and handouts for Congressional visits.
- \* For the rest of this afternoon don't worry about it . . .

