



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS

A New Congress- What they need to know to make the right decisions for pathology

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Overview

- **116th Congressional Overview**
- **Grassroots Advocacy**
- **Policy Meeting Overview**
- **How to Get Involved**
- **Questions**



Welcome

- **Donald S. Karcher, MD, FCAP**
- **Chair of the Council on Government and Professional Affairs**
- **CAP Board of Governors**



Welcome

- **David Gang, MD, FCAP**
- **Chair of the Federal and State Affairs Committee**
- **Member of the House of Delegates**



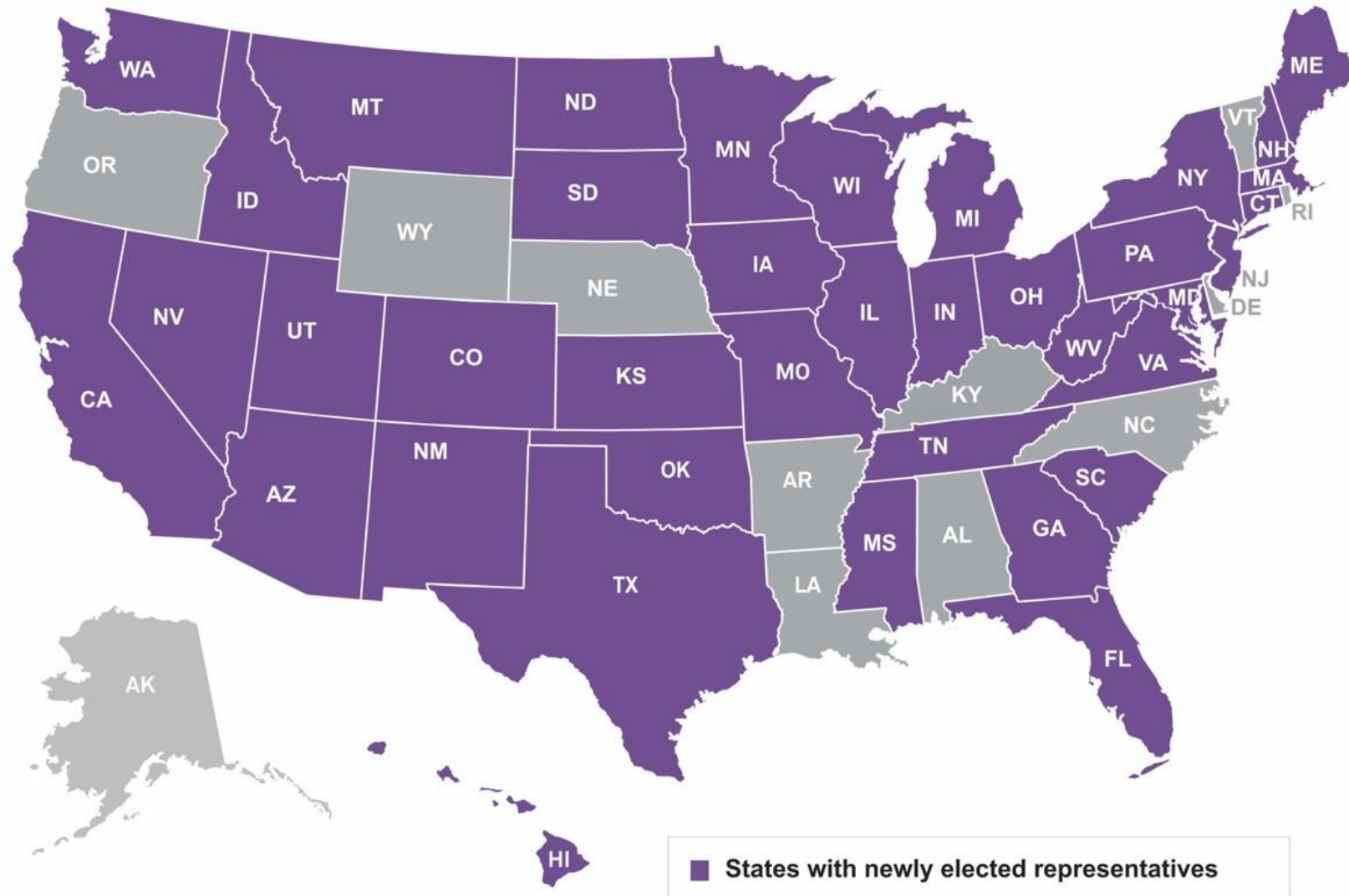
Welcome

- **Jennifer Forsyth, MD, FCAP**
- **Member of the Federal and State Affairs Committee**



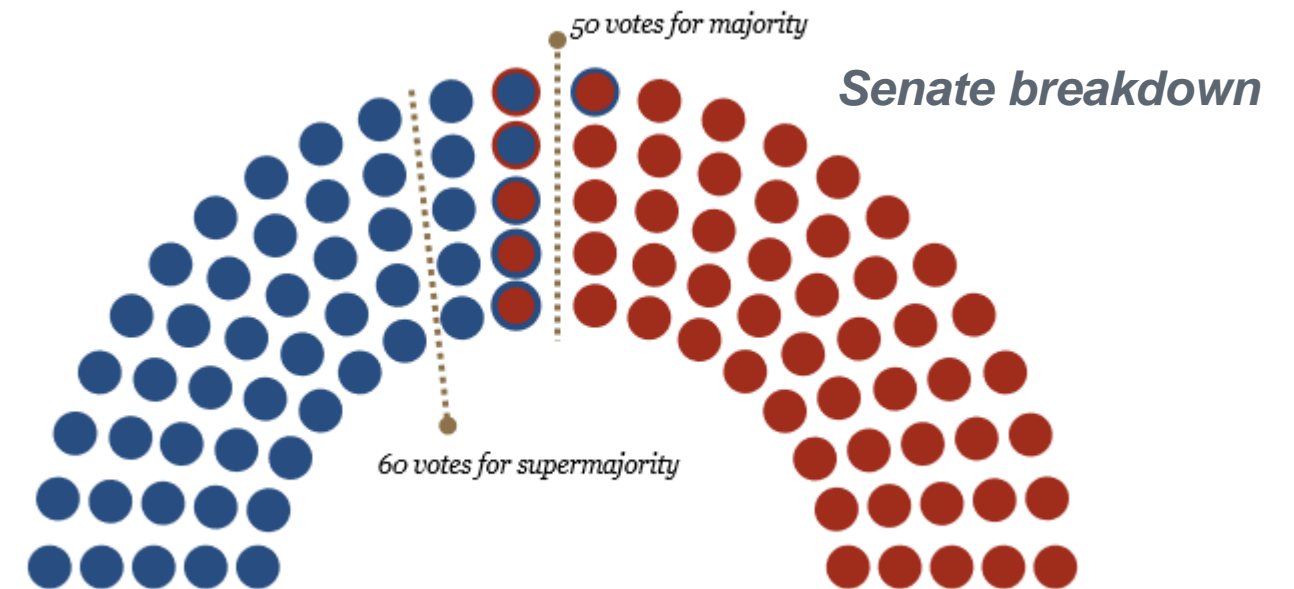
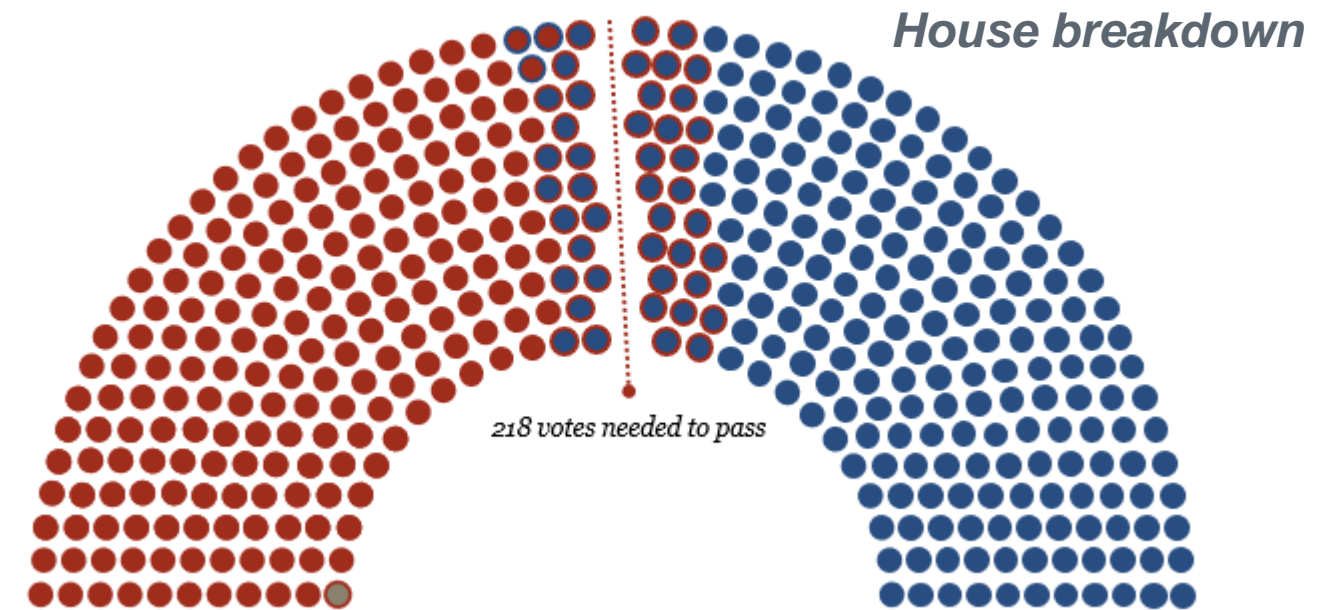
There's a New Congress in Town...

The 116th United States Congress began on January 3, 2019. There were nine new senators (two Democrats, seven Republicans) and a minimum of 89 new representatives (59 Democrats, 29 Republicans, with one open seat pending), as well as one new delegate (a Democrat) at the start of its first session.



Current Political Environment

- 2019 began with a divided Congress and a government shutdown
 - House shifted to Democratic control with 235-197 margin
 - Senate remained in Republican control with a 53-47 advantage
- Expect health care to remain a focus for Congress in 2019 as it was a hot topic during the 2018 midterm elections



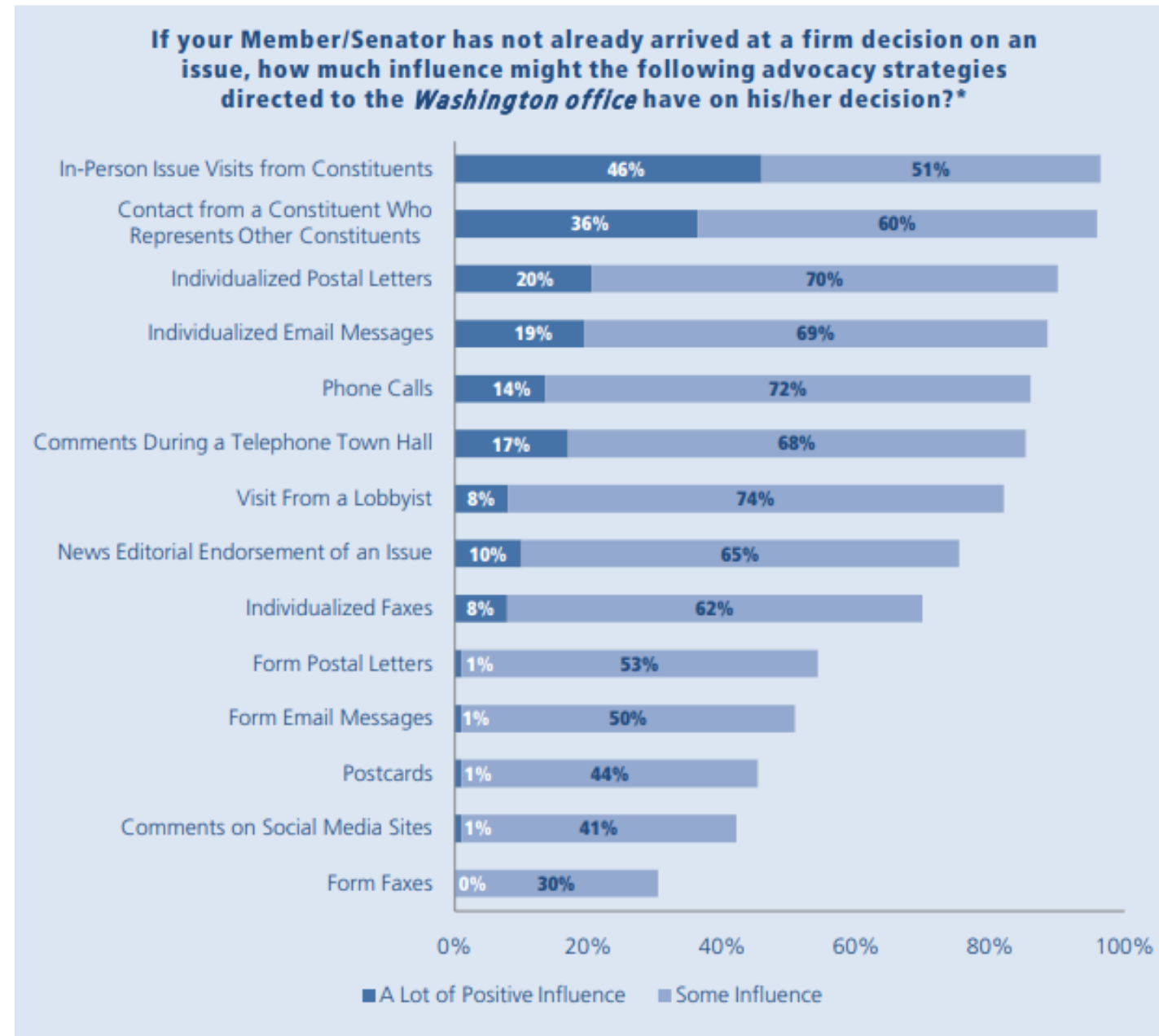
CAP Advocacy Priorities

- **Protect the value of pathology services**
- **Ensure pathologists can participate in quality payment models/initiatives**
- **Reduce regulatory burdens on pathologists and laboratories**
- **Mobilize CAP members for political action**

Change Stems from Countless of Efforts

“Constituents who take the time to contact our office directly – via our website or phone calls – about their concerns are given priority treatment. Their comments are recorded, and the data is shared with the entire staff for immediate action.”

—House Legislative Director



*Question was asked only of senior managers and mail staffers. Their responses are aggregated (n=194).

Why become an advocate?



PathNET Action Center

CAP Action Center

Current Advocates

Email

Zip (5-digit)

Login

Register

Federal Alerts **1**




Legislative Alerts



Action Needed: Tell Congress to Support PAMA Reform

The CAP is urging Congress to amend the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA) to reflect an accurate, market-based payment system for laboratories paid through the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS).

In order to reach this goal, improvements to PAMA are needed to ensure that the data collected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) accurately reflects all sectors of the clinical laboratory market, allow for validation of data collected by the CMS, re-calibrate the cuts to reflect the original three-year savings figure, and to reduce burdensome reporting requirements.

 Email

Policy Meeting Overview

- **April 29: CAP's Policy Agenda**
 - Regulatory and legislative issues
 - Guest speakers, panels, and discussion
- **April 30: Grassroots Training**
 - Hill Day legislative ask
 - What to expect in a congressional meeting
 - Prep time with your delegation
- **May 1st: Hill Day**
 - Meet face-to-face with members of Congress and legislative aides as part of our Hill Day.

Member's Schedule

NationalJournalMembership

Schedules Leave Little Time for Focusing on Constituents

Sample House Member Schedule*

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Scheduled events often overlap | 9:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Speak to attendees of National Women, Infants, and Children's Association (WIC) Leadership Conference |
| | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Attend appropriations hearing for FDA regulatory programs |
| | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Attend bipartisan classified briefing on Iran |
| Members may be late to meetings due to competing constituent demands for Member time | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Attend caucus meeting on jobs and the economy |
| | 12:45 PM – 1:15 PM | Meet with WIC program manager to discuss issues and funding |
| | 1:15 PM – 1:45 PM | Meet with representatives from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to discuss U.S.-Israel aid |
| | 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Meet with local county supervisor to discuss national parks bill |
| | 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Meet with nonprofit representative to discuss food stamp initiative in state |
| | 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Meet with local U.S. Army officers to discuss land transfer issues |
| | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Listen in on fundraising call at party HQ |
| | 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM | (FYI: regional Army Corp of Engineers discussing current projects) |
| | 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM | Meet with organic farming research foundation to discuss farming programs |
| | 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Meet with local supervisor to discuss health issues |
| | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Meet with local county representatives to discuss flood control efforts |
| | 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM | (FYI: American Council for Capital Formation Dinner Discussion) |

Analysis

- Because Members must pivot from one obligation to another with very little time between meetings, they may not be fully prepared to discuss an advocate's issue in meetings; this is more often a function of the Members' schedules and not ambivalence to their constituents
- Member schedules vary depending on the fluctuating congressional schedule and on current events; as a result, Members may need to cut meetings short in order to keep pace with their changing daily agenda

*From one day in a House Member's Washington, D.C., office in March 2012. Only identifying details have been altered.

Source: Congressional Management Foundation and the Society for Human Resource Management, "Life in Congress: The Member Perspective," 2013.

What does a Successful Meeting Look Like?

- The best stories are ones that move their hearts and minds
 - Don't get buried in the weeds
 - Relate the story to the legislative ask
- What is at stake:
 - How will it impact patients
 - Legislators and staff need to understand from your perspective what is happening



From left to right: Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE); and Gene Herbek, MD, FCAP

How to Get Involved?

- Decisions made *without input from key stakeholders* may impact your profession. *If you don't speak up who will?*
- Join **PathNET** and **respond to Action Alerts**
- Register to attend the **2019 Policy Meeting!**
- Join the American Medical Association and get involved with your State Pathology Society

Questions



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