

# Congressional Committees: How Do They Work and Which Ones Are Important to Public Health?

This year, 2017, is the first of a two-year session of Congress. It is important for LHD leaders to know who the key players are in the House of Representatives and the Senate, especially with so many changes in health policy being discussed this year.

Much of the work of Congress takes place through its committees and subcommittees. There are two main types of committees: (1) authorizing committees consider legislation to establish, continue, or modify a government agency or program, and authorize the enactment of appropriations; and (2) appropriations

committees write the bills that fund government programs on an annual basis. Both types of committees have subcommittees that are focused on different topic areas. Many of the committees that are important to public health have new leadership this year.

NACCHO members in a state or district represented by a Member of Congress in a leadership position on a health committee or subcommittee should build relationships with these Members and their staff because of their influential positions.

## Authorizing

Committee	Topic	Chair	Ranking Member
<b>House of Representatives</b>			
<b>Agriculture Committee</b>	Farm bill, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, school meals and WIC	Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX)	Rep. Collin C. Peterson (D-MN)
Nutrition Subcommittee		Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)*	Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)*
<b>Education and the Workforce Committee</b>	School meals, nutrition programs, employee health benefits	Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)*	Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee		Rep. Tim Walberg* (R-MI)	Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP)*
<b>Energy and Commerce Committee</b>	Medicaid, Medicare Part B and D, Affordable Care Act, discretionary public health programs	Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)*	Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee		Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)*	Rep. Gene Green (D-TX)
<b>Homeland Security Committee</b>	Homeland security and emergency preparedness	Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)	Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)
Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee		Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY)*	Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)
<b>Transportation and Infrastructure Committee</b>	Clean Air Act, FEMA, highway safety	Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA)	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)
<b>Ways and Means Committee</b>	Medicare, health research	Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)*	Rep. Richard E. Neal (D-MA)*
Health Subcommittee		Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-OH)*	Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI)
<b>Senate</b>			
<b>Agriculture Committee</b>	Farm bill, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, school meals and WIC	Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)	Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Nutrition Subcommittee		Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)	Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)

\* new leadership in 2017

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<i>Committee</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Ranking Member</i>
<b>Senate</b>			
<b>Environment and Public Works Committee</b>	Climate Change, Other Environmental Issues, Transportation	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)*	Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)*
<b>Finance Committee</b>	Medicare and Medicaid	Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT)	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Subcommittee on Health Care		Sen. Patrick Toomey (R-PA)	Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
<b>Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee</b>		Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)	Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
Children and Families Subcommittee		Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)	Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)
Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee		Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)	Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)
Primary Health and Retirement Security Subcommittee		Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY)	Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
<b>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee</b>		Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)	Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO)*
Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management Subcommittee		Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)	Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-MI)*

### *Budget/Appropriations*

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Ranking Member</i>
<b>House of Representatives</b>		
<b>Budget Committee</b>	Rep. Diane Black (R-TN)*	Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)*
<b>Appropriations Committee</b>	Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)*	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Agriculture, FDA, Rural Development Subcommittee	Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)	Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)*
Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee	Rep. John Carter (R-TX)	Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)*
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee	Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee	Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)*	Rep. David Price (D-NC)*
<b>Senate</b>		
<b>Budget Committee</b>	Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY)	Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)*
<b>Appropriations Committee</b>	Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)	Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)*
Agriculture, FDA, Rural Development Appropriations Subcommittee	Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)*	Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee	Sen. John Boozman (D-AR)*	Sen. John Tester (R-MT)*
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee	Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)	Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee	Sen. Susan Collins (D-ME)	Sen. Jack Reed (R-RI)*

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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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