



AGA CONGRESSIONAL ADVOCATES PROGRAM: GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What are the goals
of the AGA grassroots
advocacy program?

- ★ To promote the best legislation possible that will enhance gastroenterology and the delivery of quality GI care.
- ★ To better understand issues affecting gastroenterology and be able to explain organized gastroenterology's position to members of Congress.
- ★ To inform other gastroenterologists of the impact of proposed legislation and regulation on their professional and personal lives.
- ★ To help members of Congress understand the impact proposed legislation and regulation has on gastroenterologists and the delivery of quality GI care.
- ★ To motivate gastroenterologists to become involved in the political process.

How would I help carry
out the goals of the
AGA grassroots program?

- ★ To be aware of pending legislation at the federal level and, with the assistance of the AGA, be prepared to discuss its impact on gastroenterology, your patients and the local community.
- ★ To represent the views of gastroenterology to elected federal officials in whose district and state you live.
- ★ To help build community understanding and support for gastroenterology's position on issues of major concern.
- ★ To assist with the implementation of any future grassroots program activities that involves other gastroenterologists, their families, and other potential constituents.

What are my ongoing responsibilities as a grassroots advocate?

Ideally, AGA would like you to be involved in as many of these activities as possible (at a minimum at least the first 4 activities):

- ★ Keep up with what your legislators are doing and the votes they cast on issues concerning gastroenterology.
- ★ Let your legislators know when you are pleased or displeased with their votes or expressed opinions on an issue of special concern to you and gastroenterology.
- ★ Visit your legislators' offices and get to know the staff both in Washington and the district or state, specifically the chief of staff, the health legislative assistant (LA) and the scheduler. Talk to them succinctly about key issues, the political scene or subjects of common interest.
- ★ Contribute to AGA PAC.
- ★ Invite your legislators and their spouses to small social gatherings with other gastroenterologists and their families, friends, and neighbors, including events hosted in your home.
- ★ Invite your legislators to lunch. Offer to arrange transportation to and from the luncheon. Be prepared to discuss their activities, the local political scene or particular legislation of mutual concern.
- ★ Attend political functions and fundraisers. At each function, introduce your legislators to as many people as possible.
- ★ Invite your legislators and members of their staff to visit your office or institution and give them a tour.
- ★ Get involved both personally and financially in your legislators' political campaigns or in local projects they undertake.



Follow the AGA's work on Capitol Hill with the *AGA Washington Insider*, a policy blog for GIs, at amergastroassn.wordpress.com.

For more information on the AGA's public policy activities, visit www.gastro.org/advocacy or e-mail advocacy@gastro2.org.