



Hepatitis Advocacy: Understanding Federal Appropriations

March 29, 2018

Phone/Audio Option



Call-In #: +1 (213) 929-4232

Attendee Access Code: 962-338-217

All attendees are muted.

Questions?



Questions? Submit questions in the chat box at anytime throughout the webinar.

Agenda

- Welcome / Introductions
- Intro to Federal Budget and Appropriations Process
- Overview of Appropriations Advocacy Strategies
- Q & A

Panelists



Emily McCloskey

Associate Director, Policy & Legislative Affairs
National Alliance for State and Territorial
AIDS Directors (NASTAD)



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

Frank Hood

Hepatitis C Policy Associate
The AIDS Institute

Hep B United: A National Coalition



hepbunited.org



Dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B by increasing awareness, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk communities across the United States.

- 30+ local coalitions & national organizations that focus on the Asian American & Pacific Islander communities
- Voices for local and national advocacy
- Co-brand the [Know Hepatitis B](#) campaign with CDC

The **National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)** is a **national coalition** working together to **eliminate hepatitis B and C** in the United States. NVHR's vision is a **healthier world without hepatitis B and C.**

www.nvhr.org/join

Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership

ABOUT NASTAD

WHO: A non-profit association founded in 1992 that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs funded by state and federal governments.

WHERE: All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Islands. Africa, the Central America region, and the Caribbean region.

HOW: Interpret and influence policies, conduct trainings, offer technical assistance, and provide advocacy mobilization for U.S. health departments and ministries of health.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

MISSION: NASTAD's mission is to end the intersecting epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, and related conditions by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice.

VISION: NASTAD's vision is a world free of HIV and viral hepatitis.

Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership



- The Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership began in 2004, as the Hepatitis C Appropriations Partnership.
- In 2010, in order to be more inclusive of hepatitis B, the name was changed to the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership or HAP.

Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership

- HAP is a national coalition based in Washington, D.C. that includes community-based organizations, public health and provider associations, national hepatitis and HIV organizations and diagnostic, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies from all over the country.
- HAP works with federal policy makers in Congress and the Executive branch and with public health officials to increase federal support and funding for hepatitis prevention, testing, education, research, surveillance, and treatment.



Audience Poll #1

Tell us who you are/what sector you are coming from!

- National Non-Profit or Community-Based Organization
- State or Local Health Department
- Federally Qualified Health Center/Clinic/Community Health Center
- Academic or Research Institute
- Other

Audience Poll #2

How much do you know about the Federal budget and appropriations process?

- ▣ I know a lot about the process.
- ▣ I have some knowledge about the process.
- ▣ I know very little about the process.
- ▣ I do not know anything about the process.

Audience Poll #3 (Pop Quiz!)

How much funding does the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis currently receive?

- ▣ \$34 million
- ▣ \$39 million
- ▣ \$70 million
- ▣ \$134 million

Budget and Appropriations

Appropriations and Budget Lingo

- Mandatory vs. Discretionary
 - Discretionary set at “discretion” of Congress
 - 12 appropriations bills must pass each year to continue operations
 - Mandatory enacted by law; not dependent on appropriations bills
 - Entitlement Programs (e.g., Medicare)
 - To change spending, must change eligibility rules
 - Interest on the debt
 - Other mandatory (e.g., Prevention Fund)

Appropriations and Budget Lingo

- Defense discretionary
 - Military personnel, procurement, operation and maintenance
- Non-defense discretionary
 - Education, training, employment, transportation, housing, health research, public health, law enforcement, veterans' benefits, foreign aid, national parks, environmental protection, tax collection etc.

Appropriations and Budget Lingo

- 302(a) Allocation
 - The spending amounts set by the House and Senate Budget Committees for the Appropriations Committees, set in the budget resolution
- 302(b) Allocation
 - Based on the 302(b) allocation, the Appropriations' apportionments for subcommittees

Appropriations and Budget Lingo

- Omnibus
 - Package of smaller appropriations bills that is passed as one larger bill
- Continuing Resolution
 - Continues funding amounts from previous fiscal year for a set amount of time
- Cromnibus
 - A spending package that combines individual spending bills and a continuing resolution for other portions of government funding

Appropriations

- Appropriators use spending bills to enact policy change
 - Prohibit use of funding (aka “policy riders”)
- Report language – narrative to the appropriations bills
 - Direct funding provided to discrete projects
 - Require new activities (e.g., reports to Congress)
 - Restrict use of funding
 - House is required to write a report, Senate is not, but usually does so

Timeline

February

President submits budget request

April

Congress adopts a Budget Resolution

May

Appropriations Committees make 302(b) allocations to 12 subcommittees

May - June

Subcommittees mark up appropriations bills

June

House Full Committee ratifies bill, House floor debate, vote

July to September

Senate develops and adopts its own appropriations bills

September

Differences negotiated in conference committee, To president for signature/veto

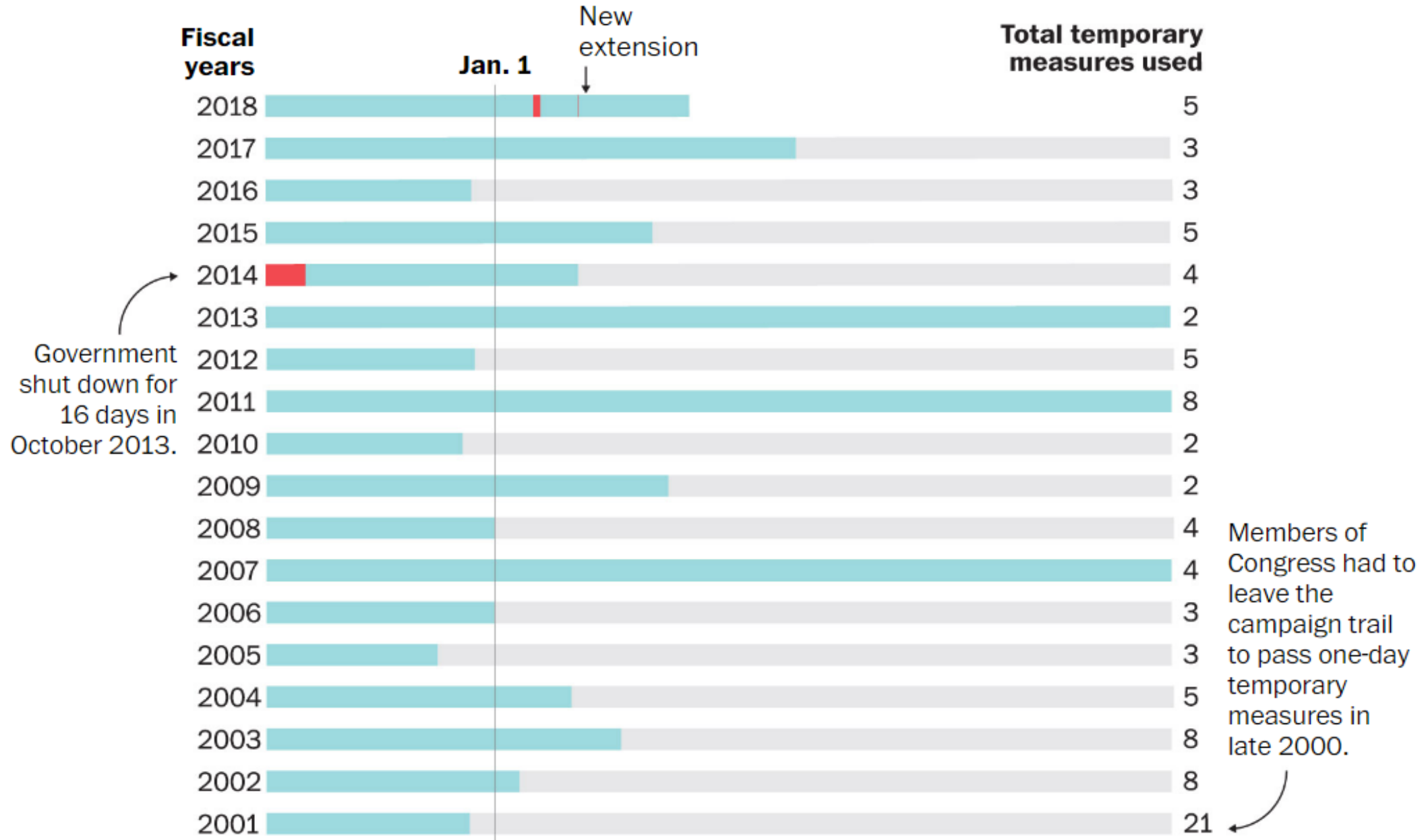
October 1

New fiscal year begins

What Really Happens?

- Even when things begin on time, they are almost never done on time
 - Congress will use a Continuing Resolution to fund the government for a finite period
 - Programs are generally flat funded
 - Outstanding bills are frequently bundled in “omnibus” or “minibus” measures

■ Funded by temporary measure
 ■ Shutdown
 ■ Normal funding



What's Happening Now?

- FY2018 was finalized on Friday.
 - Included a \$5 million increase for the Division of Viral Hepatitis
- Work on FY2019 has begun in earnest
 - The President's Budget requested flat funding from FY2017, so a \$5 million cut from FY2018
 - Included a new program known as the Elimination Initiative
 - The House deadline for requests has passed, but no mark up yet
 - Senate deadline is mid-April
 - Fewer working days due to the election cycle

Audience Poll #4

Have you ever met with a Member of Congress or their staff to advocate for increased funding for viral hepatitis programs?

- Yes, I have.
- No, I have not.
- No, but I have called or emailed them about this.



Overview of Advocacy Techniques

- Hill Visits
- Organizational Sign-On Letters
- Dear Colleague Letters
- Congressional Briefings
- Report Language
- Coalitions

Our Advocacy Ask

- An additional \$95 million for CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis
 - Currently funded at \$39 million
- Additional funds would help reduce new cases of hepatitis B and C through:
 - Increased testing, switching from passive to active surveillance, expanding surveillance, creating new prevention campaigns, larger focus on heavily impacted areas

Rule of Seven

- Used most often in marketing and political campaigns
- “Someone needs to hear your message seven times before they’re likely to be compelled to action”
- Provides an important lesson: the most successful arguments are repeated, and presented in more than one way

Hill Visits

- Individual or group meeting with member of Congressperson's staff
- Usually conducted on Capitol Hill in Congressperson's office
- Range from :10 to an hour or more

Pros and Cons

- “Free”
- Passion can shine through
- Able to tailor conversation
- Labor-intensive
- Limited geographically

Organizational Sign-On Letters

- Petition but with organizations as signers
- Way to show there is “community” support for advocacy ask
- May find previously unknown champions

Pros and Cons

- Usually not labor-intensive
- Can be coordinated from anywhere
- Static
- Can be ignored

Dear Colleague Letters

- Petition but with elected officials as signers
- Way to show there is political support for advocacy ask
- May find previously unknown champions
- “Interoffice memo”

Pros and Cons

- Can be coordinated from anywhere
- Credible
- Labor-intensive
- Static
- Can be ignored
- Potential limited support

Congressional Briefings

- Event held on or near Capitol Hill
- Chance to provide detailed info to Congressional staff as a group
- Able to conduct presentations, panel conversations, etc.

Pros and Cons

- Potential media exposure
- Group setting can be energizing and convincing
- Labor-intensive
- Can be expensive
- Uncertain attendance
- Many moving parts

Report Language

- Congressional Research Service: “Generally include[s] detailed spending instructions... and, sometimes, spending restrictions”

Pros and Cons

- Impacts executive branch decision making
 - However, doesn’t necessarily carry authority of law
- Requires response from executive branch agencies to Congress
- Requires Congressional ally
- May have unintended effects

Coalitions

- Multiple organizations coming together to form a single entity
- Can be within the same “community” or across numerous “communities”
- Focused on specific advocacy area, or more general idea

Pros and Cons

- Stronger together
- “Many hands make light work”
- Requires consensus
- Requires trust

Advocacy in Practice

Coalitions

- Hep B United
 - “national coalition to address and eliminate hepatitis B”
- Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership
 - “national coalition that includes community-based organizations, public health and provider associations, national hepatitis and HIV organizations and diagnostic, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies from all over the country working to increase federal support and funding for hepatitis prevention, testing, education, research, surveillance, and treatment”

• National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

- “NVHR is a broad coalition working to fight, and ultimately end, the hepatitis B and hepatitis C epidemics. We seek an aggressive response from policymakers, public health officials, medical and health care providers, the media, and the general public through our advocacy, education, and technical assistance.”

Advocacy in Practice

Hill Visits

- More than 100 Hill visits

Dear Colleague Sign-On Letters

- House – 44 bipartisan signers
- Senate – 15 signers

Organizational Sign-On Letters

- \$70M - 62 different organizational signers
- \$134M – 95 different organizational signers

Thank you!

Franklin Hood
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Q & A

Please submit questions in the chat box!

Thank You!

Feel free to send additional comments/questions to advocate@hepb.org



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