

2022 Joint MLA/AAHSL Legislation Committee Capitol Hill meetings

Maggie Ansell, Chair, & Andy Hickner, Vice Chair

Outcomes

- 6 members met with 18 offices
- Timeframe: April 5-May 10

How did the aide receive your presentation?

- *politely*
- *Positively*
- *Good, interested, wanted to know how to help.*
- *Good. This was likely the least interested if the three. She did not turn on her camera so I couldn't really read her well.*
- *I and the information presented were well received.*
- *Overall the staff member received my presentation well.*
- *My presentation was received well.*
- *Meeting was received well. Casey mentioned additional funding that may be available for Nevada.*
- *Elizabeth Edmunds (Tommy Tuberville) was very engaging and attentive during the meeting. She already had the documents I sent to her pulled up and was reviewing them as we talked. She indicated that they would follow suit with Richard Shelby's vote, and she felt that the vote would be yes since Shelby is retiring and this would be a lost big win for them.*
- *The representative I was supposed to meet changed at the last moment. I was supposed to meet with Congresswoman Terri Sewell's Legislative Aid, Earl Flood, but instead met with Danielle King, a Health Policy Fellow. Ms. King was interested in the documents we shared, and extremely familiar with PubMed since she is an MPH a researcher of gun violence as a public health crisis.*

Which particular issues did the staff member show interest in?

Did the staff member ask for additional information or ask that someone follow up on an issue?

- *None, and no.*
- *Nothing in particular*
- *The funding amounts.*
- *Just wanted the exact amounts requested for funding*
- *Rep Mullin was impressed with the map and the outreach activities in Oklahoma compared to other states.*
- *Unaware of NLM; asked if I provided the information, it was very well done. I gave credit to NLM and MLA.*
- *Asked how much of the NLM funding does our library receive directly. None, and I explained the NNLM process for grant funding.*
- *Asked how the NNLM network is advertised, she has never heard of it. She said it was a shame because a lot of good information was provided to her. I responded that the challenge for NNLM and our library in general, is making people aware of the great resources; she can now be an advocate.*
- *Funding to support health literacy in Nevada*
- *Interested in funding to support GME spots, telemedicine, community health workers.*
- *Is interested in connecting with resources to help with community health workers and other grants. Will share with her local resources from NLM/NNLM Grants and connect her to person working with community health workers*
- *I don't recall a particular interest in any one issue.*

Did the staff member make suggestions or provide information on an issue?

- Leader Schumer's aide said Sen. Shelby and Leahy are outgoing appropriators retiring this year, so they'd both like "one last win to cap out their careers" and are hoping to get this year's appropriations passed before they leave office. She had no questions; meeting took about 10 minutes.
- She sent me the link to their approps request form, which I completed.
- Was able to let me know that Congressman Crow just signed the NIH Dear Colleague letter
- Said that Sen Bennett is very likely to support again this year, as he did last year.
- No
- Rep Mullin indicated that there may be a small increase in funding, but that the NIH budget likely wouldn't be cut.
- Keep them in the loop on funding opportunities related to Nevada and they may be able to help if needed.
- Stay in contact if there are funding needs on the ground.
- Casey gave me the name of the person in Nevada whom I can keep in touch with. I will reach out to that person if and when I am doing any work related to health literacy and resources available that support consumer health.

Challenges

- *I felt a little less prepared for this first meeting, due to nerves and uncertainty about how the meeting would go. By the third meeting I felt more confident. The materials prepared were helpful along with links provided to access projects, voting etc., and other information relevant to my state.*
- *Making sure we have the ability to share info that is directly relevant to our state. The ARPA-H stuff was confusing, so I barely mentioned it.*
- *Make sure and tell us to set up personal Zoom accounts and not use our work accounts - unless our work allows that.*
- *After talking with our governmental relations person he suggested that if there were concerns that I felt our Dean might support to talk with her and he would be willing to advocate on our behalf. However, this might be tricky and I have no sense of the politics or how my Dean might respond to such overtures or requests.*

Sharing our experiences in 2022 Hill meetings

- Joy Summers-Ables
- Melissa Desantis
- Jill Deaver