

You're in the Picture- Suicide Prevention, Making a Difference in Public Policy

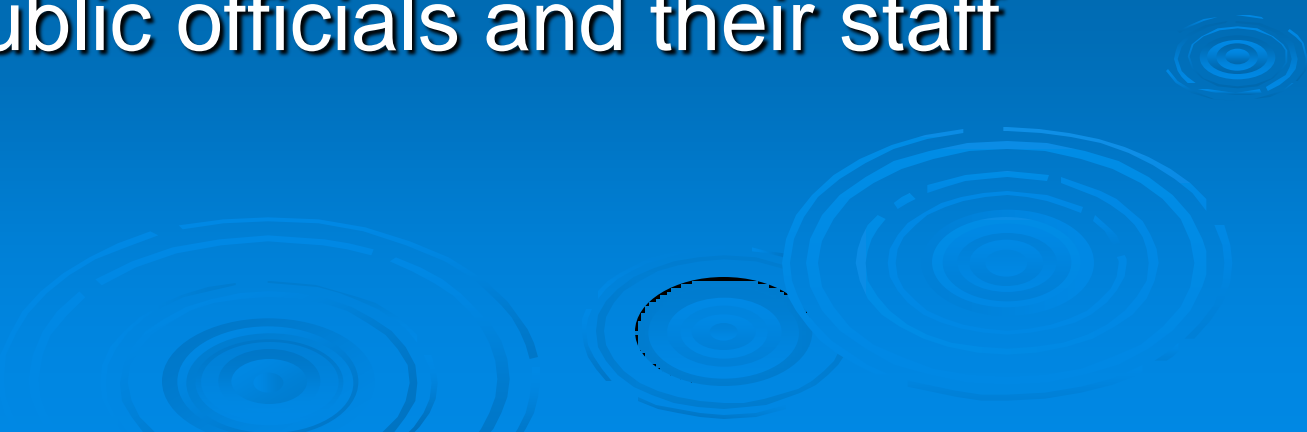
July 22, 2010



American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention



Nuts and Bolts of Putting Yourself in the Picture

- Educate yourself
 - Educate the public and other stakeholders
 - Educate public officials and their staff
- 
- The background of the slide features several concentric, light blue circular ripples that resemble water droplets hitting a surface, positioned in the lower right quadrant.

Research the Issues

- Go to:
 - www.spanusa.org
 - www.sprc.org
 - www.afsp.org
- Attend a national AFSP, AAS or SPRC conference
- Become an AFSP field advocate
- Participate in a SPRC webinar
- Learn about your state's suicide prevention plan if one exists
- Subscribe to newsletters, social networking sites and publications

- Join Us - Field Advocate Program
- **2010 Federal Public Policy Priorities**
- In the News
- Write Congress
- Federal Updates
- State Updates
- 2010 Public Policy Internship Program
- Resources
- Contact Us

Federal Public Policy Initiatives



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

On December 23, 2009, the AFSP Board of Directors approved the recommendations from the AFSP Public Policy Council regarding legislative and regulatory priorities to be pursued at the federal level in calendar year 2010. AFSP/SPAN USA public policy staff will work with AFSP/SPAN USA national volunteers, chapter field advocates and AFSP staff to attain the following goals and objectives. Additional priority legislative and regulatory issues are being reviewed. We expect to add additional issue areas over the coming year.

In addition, AFSP/SPAN USA Chapters and Field Advocates are currently being surveyed on priorities at the state and local level for 2010. Information will be shared as soon as the survey information is compiled and reviewed and approved by the AFSP Public Policy Council.

The Public Policy Council recommended the following federal public policy priorities for calendar year 2010. You may click each priority to view and print a public policy issue brief on the topic. [For a fact sheet on suicide, please click here.](#)

Issues on which AFSP/SPAN USA will take a leading role, initiating advocacy and engaging others to support our goals:

1. [Reauthorization and appropriations at the maximum attainable level for Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act \(GLSMA\) programs.](#)
2. [Strengthening legislation on veteran and military suicide prevention to promote longitudinal research on the rates and causes of military suicide, require better reporting by the Department of Defense and the Veterans' Administration, develop anti-stigma campaigns and continue to expand suicide prevention programs to assist members, returning veterans and their family members.](#)
3. Legislation and other policy directives to encourage the National Institutes of Health Agencies (such as the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Alcohol abuse and Alcoholism, and National Institute on Drug Abuse) to invest more substantially in research related to suicide [PPIB_2010_3_NIH.doc](#) and survivors of suicide loss or suicide attempts.

Issues on which AFSP/SPAN USA will take an active supporting role, conducting advocacy in concert with like-minded coalitions:

1. [Appropriations at the maximum attainable level for the National Violent Death Reporting System \(NVDRS\).](#)
2. [Implementation of Mental Health Parity and Health Insurance Reform.](#)
3. [Reauthorization of and appropriations for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\).](#)
4. [Legislation to allow the Golden Gate Bridge Authority \(and other local jurisdictions\) to use federal funds for bridge suicide prevention barriers.](#)
5. [Legislation that aims to reduce bullying and cyber-bullying.](#)
6. [Legislation to establish Depression Centers of Excellence.](#)

[Click Here to Download These Federal Public Policy Priorities](#)

[Click Here for Archived Federal Public Policy Priorities](#)

If you or someone you know
is in suicidal crisis, call
1-800-273-TALK (8255).
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

[SPRC Home](#) > [Taking Action](#)

Taking Action

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Resources for Effective Suicide Prevention Programs

Suicide prevention programs have a better chance of success if they pay attention to what research and practice has demonstrated works well in responding to suicide and related public health issues. The resources contained in this section of the SPRC website will help programs ensure that their efforts are consistent with the best information on suicide prevention and public health programming. If you are not a suicide prevention program manager, staff member, or volunteer, we suggest you use the information in [Suicide Prevention Basics: Getting Started](#) to learn how you can help prevent suicides.

The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) recommends that programs and agencies use the public health approach in their efforts to prevent suicide. For more information, see [Suicide Prevention Basics: The Public Health Approach to Preventing Suicide](#).

Within Taking Action, you will find resources on the following topics:

- [Building and Maintaining Coalitions](#)
- [Finding and Using Data](#)
- [Planning and Implementing Your Program](#)
- [Finding Funding](#)
- [Evaluating Your Program](#)

Additional information on these topics can be found in the [SPRC Online Library](#).

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The SPRC is supported by a grant (1 U79 SMS7392-05) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). No official endorsement by SAMHSA or DHHS for the information on this web site is intended or should be inferred.



- Prepare yourself and know the facts
- Personalize and localize the issues where possible (SPRC state fact sheets provide useful local information)
- Download and use fact sheets and issue briefs prepared by the AFSP public policy staff

If you or someone you know
is in suicidal crisis, call
1-800-273-TALK (8255).
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

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Contact Us

SPRC Home > State Information > New York



New York State Suicide Prevention Information

BROWSE the contents of this page:

- Contact Information
- Recent Developments
- State Events
- History of State Suicide Prevention Efforts
- State and Local Prevention Resources
- Legislation/Resolutions
- Funding Sources

Click on [full description](#) to **understand the categories.**

New York Contact Information:

Melanie Puerto
Director of Suicide Prevention Initiatives
Office of Mental Health NYS
44 Holland Ave.
Albany, NY 12229
Tel: 518-408-2139
Fax: 518-486-7988
Email: Coqamp@omh.state.ny.us

Please click on [contact information](#) to view the person(s) taking the lead in suicide prevention planning efforts in all of the states or territories.

Recent Developments:

- 2007 - 2008 - The New York State Legislature has allocated \$1,000,000 to the New York State Office of Mental Health for services and expenses to support a public awareness and education campaign which will be specifically focused on suicide prevention among young Latina and elderly Asian women.
- 2006 - \$ 1.5 million in state funding for suicide prevention was approved in 2006
- 2006 - OMH publishes a Chinese version of SPEAK, its major awareness vehicle, aimed at the Asian community. Previous versions are available in English and Spanish. All 3 are available at the [OMH website](#).
- Implementation of the SPEAK kit using multi-media in both Spanish and English is ongoing

Scope of Plan:

Lifespan

State Plan:

- Saving Lives Vol. 1 - Challenge, Strategy and Policy Recommendations
- Saving Lives Vol. 2 - Approaches and Special Populations
- NY State Infrastructure for Suicide Prevention
- Saving Lives Vol. 3 - Data Book

State Website:

- [New York State Suicide Prevention](#)

State Data:

- [Suicide Prevention Fact Sheet](#)
- [Methodology Fact Sheet](#)
- [Latest suicide data \(2002\)](#)
- [U.S. Suicide Prevention Fact Sheet](#)
- [WISQARS](#)

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State Events:

Visit the [SPRC Calendar of Events](#) for more details on all state and national events. If you would like to

At the federal level consult websites for AFSP public policy priorities

➤ Examples:

- Reauthorization of SAMHSA and adequate funding of Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act programs
- Legislation on veteran and military suicide prevention
- Adequate funding of NIMH, NIAAA, NIDA



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Federal Public Policy Priorities

The Public Policy Council recommended the following federal public policy priorities for calendar year 2010 to the AFSP Board of Directors:

- A. Issues on which AFSP/SPAN USA will take a leading role, initiating advocacy and engaging others to support our goals:
 1. Appropriations at the maximum attainable level for Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GLSMA)
 2. Strengthening legislation on veterans and military suicide prevention to promote longitudinal research on the rates and causes of military suicide, require better reporting by the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense, develop anti-stigma campaigns, and continue and expand programs to assist service members, returning veterans, and families.
 3. Legislation or other policy directives to encourage National Institutes of Health agencies (such as National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and National Institute on Drug Abuse) to invest more substantially in research related to suicide, suicide prevention, and survivors of suicide loss or suicide attempts.
- B. Issues on which AFSP/SPAN USA will take an active supporting role, conducting advocacy in concert with like-minded coalitions:
 1. Appropriations at the maximum attainable level for:
 - a. National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
 - b. Suicide Prevention Lifeline
 - c. Support for the Mental Health Liaison Group's Budget & Appropriations Recommendations
 2. Implementation of Mental Health Parity and Health Reform in accordance with our previous priority objectives.
 3. Reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (including provisions of the GLSMA) and, if possible, expansions/improvements in the GLSMA with an increase in its authorization level.
 4. Legislation (provision of transportation authorization) to allow the Golden Gate Bridge Authority (and other jurisdictions) to use federal funds for bridge barriers.
 5. Legislation that aims to reduce bullying and cyber-bullying.
 6. Legislation to establish depression centers of excellence (ENHANCED ACT).

The subcommittee also recommends that the Chair's report to the BOD include the following points:

- The order of issues listed under A and B will provide guidance to staff in determining time and effort allocations.
- In addition to the annual priorities, the Washington Office staff will be expected to monitor and keep the Public Policy Council informed about a full range of federal policy developments (legislative and executive) that relate to suicide and suicide prevention.
- In the event that an issue not on the priority list emerges as an important opportunity that may require organizational approval, that issue will be brought to the Public Policy Council for any necessary action.
- Among the issues that have shown such potential are:
 - Legislation to establish a suicide attempt registry and line authority for NVDRS
 - Legislation providing grants for suicide prevention in the workplace
 - Legislation to create Department of Justice grant programs aimed at reducing suicide and suicide attempts in jail, prisons, and boot camps



Public Policy Issue Brief – 2010

Appropriations for the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act – Federal Initiative

BACKGROUND

Each year more than 4,000 Americans between the ages of 15 to 24 die by suicide, making suicide the third leading cause of death for this age group. It is the second leading cause of death among college students as more than 1,000 taking their lives each year. These are startling statistics, made even more alarming when you consider that 70% of people who die by suicide tell someone about suicidal thoughts in advance. Yet, most of these young people have not received any sort of counseling or treatment.

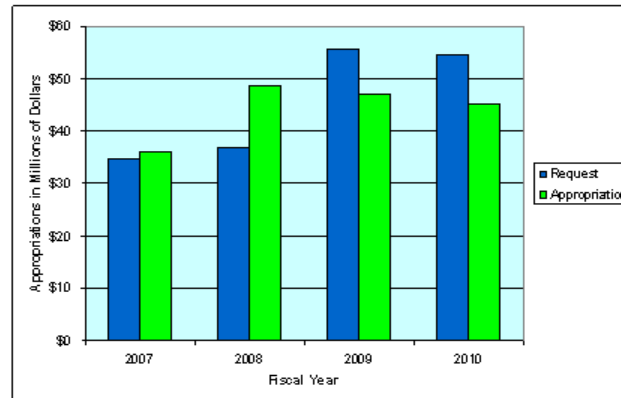
THE GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

To combat the rising epidemic of youth suicide, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GLSMA) (P.L. 108-355) on October 21, 2004. The nation's first suicide prevention bill, the GLSMA recognized youth suicide as a public health crisis linked to underlying mental health problems.

Tasked as the lead agency to implement GLSMA programs, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and its Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) receive federal appropriations to manage two significant youth suicide prevention programs and a resource center.

- The Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program supports 42 states, 18 tribes or tribal organizations, and one Territory in developing and implementing youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies involving public-private collaborations among youth serving institutions.
 - Since October 2005, Memorial Suicide Prevention programs have trained 176,855 teachers, mental health professionals and other individuals who frequently interact with youth in suicide prevention.
- The Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention program provides funding to institutions of higher education to prevent suicide and suicide attempts.
 - Nearly \$5 million in grants were awarded in FY 2010 to college campuses across the country for campus suicide prevention efforts.
- The Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) develops effective strategies and best practices to ensure the field has access to the most crucial information.
 - SPRC promotes the implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and enhances the nation's mental health infrastructure by providing states, government agencies, private organizations, colleges and universities, and suicide survivor and mental health consumer groups with access to the science and experience that can support their efforts to develop programs, implement interventions, and promote policies to prevent suicide.
- SAMHSA also provides funding for The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which routes calls from anywhere in the United States to a network of certified local crisis centers and answers more than 43,000 calls a month.
 - In July 2007, SAMHSA partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide and ensure 24/7 access to a veterans suicide prevention hotline. This hotline has answered an average of 4,000 calls from veterans and their families per month.

Suicide Prevention for Children and Adolescents – Previous FY Funding for GLSMA Programs



AFSP/SPAN USA PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

AFSP/SPAN USA urges Congress to provide appropriations at the maximum attainable level for Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act programs.

2010 ACTION TAKEN/REQUIRED

February 1, 2010

President Obama's FY 2011 Budget calls for \$48.317 million of funding for GLSMA programs. This represents an overall increase of \$3.125 million, or 6.91%, over FY 2010 appropriations and is distributed as follows:

- \$7.522 million for the suicide lifeline (\$2 million, or 36.2%, increase over FY 2010 appropriations).
- \$30.438 million for State Youth Suicide Prevention programs (\$700,000, or 2.4%, increase over FY 2010 appropriations).
- \$5.4 million for Campus Youth Suicide Prevention programs (\$425,000, or 8.5%, increase over FY 2010 appropriations).
- Level funding of \$4.957 million for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

March 23, 2010

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) has proposed an additional \$1 million in funding for suicide prevention programs on top of the President's FY 2011 budget and AFSP/SPAN USA expects to support this recommendation. In addition, AFSP/SPAN USA urges Congress to *reauthorize GLSMA programs under any SAMHSA reauthorization legislation* and we will work to achieve this objective. (AFSP Public Policy Council 12/09) The GLSMA authorization expired in 2007 (See Public Policy Issue Brief #6 for additional information regarding SAMHSA reauthorization).

April 20, 2010

AFSP/SPAN USA has met and is working collaboratively with Representative Bart Gordon's (D-TN) and Senator Chris Dodd's (D-CT) staff on GLSMA reauthorization legislation.

May 11, 2010

AFSP/SPAN USA met with Senator Jack Reed's (D-RI) staff to discuss moving along reauthorization of the GLSMA. It is unclear as to whether the political will exists to move GLSMA reauthorization this session of Congress. The Healthcare Reform debate may have used up all the current political capital for any other healthcare related legislation to move forward. There has been discussion as to whether to attach GLSMA reauthorization to a larger SAMHSA reauthorization bill.

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➤ At the federal level, access websites like –

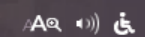
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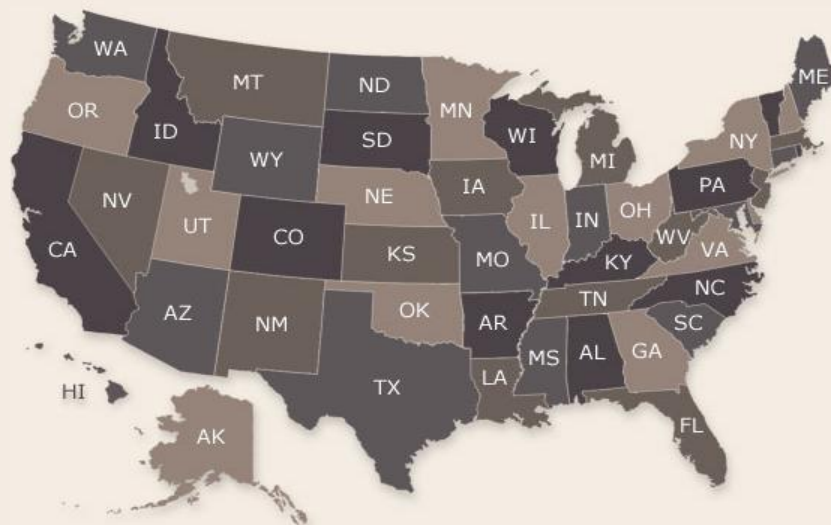
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Robert C. Byrd In Memoriam

[Senator Byrd \(1917-2010\)](#)

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Rumors! Tall Tales About Senate Art

Millions of people come to the Senate each year to learn about the institution through its art and historical collections. However, sometimes misinformation obscures the true story of the Senate. "[Rumors!](#)" is a sampling of the more unusual stories that have been heard.



This Week in Senate History

June 29, 1852

Legendary Kentucky Senator Henry Clay died of tuberculosis in Washington at the age of seventy-five. Known by many as "the Great Compromiser," Clay played a major role in directing and influencing domestic and foreign policy during his forty-six years of public service. He began his Senate career in 1806 at age 29, just short of the constitutionally required minimum age of thirty.



The Role of Committees in the Legislative Process

[Committees](#) are an essential part of the legislative process. Senate committees monitor on-going governmental operations, identify issues suitable for legislative review, gather and evaluate information, and recommend courses of action to the Senate.

During each two-year Congress thousands of bills and resolutions are referred to Senate committees. To manage the volume and complexity, the Senate divides its work between [standing committees](#), [special or select committees](#), and [joint committees](#). These committees are further divided into [subcommittees](#). Of all the measures sent to committees, only a small percentage are considered. By considering and [reporting](#) on a bill, committees help to set the Senate's agenda.

When a committee or subcommittee decides to consider a measure, it usually takes four actions.

1. The committee requests written comments from relevant executive agencies.
2. [Hearings](#) are held to gather additional information and views from non-committee experts.
3. The committee works to perfect the measure by amending the bill or resolution.
4. Once the language is agreed upon, the committee sends the measure back to the full Senate. Often it also provides a report that describes the purpose of the measure.

For additional information about the role of committees in the legislative process, read the essays "[About the Senate Committee System](#)" and "[Senate Committees](#)." Also, visit the [Committees FAQ](#) page, the Virtual Reference Desk's [Committee page](#), or the [Committee section](#) of Senate.gov.

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Floor Schedule

Monday, Jul 12, 2010
2:00 p.m.: Convene and begin a period of morning business.

Previous Meeting
Wednesday, Jun 30, 2010
The Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:40 p.m. 2 [record votes](#) were taken.

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[Akaka, Daniel K.](#) - (D - HI) Class I

141 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-6361
Web Form: akaka.senate.gov@email-senator-akaka.cfm

[Alexander, Lamar](#) - (R - TN) Class II

455 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-4944
Web Form: alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email

[Barrasso, John](#) - (R - WY) Class I

307 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-6441
Web Form: barrasso.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUs...

[Baucus, Max](#) - (D - MT) Class II

511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-2651
Web Form: baucus.senate.gov/contact/emailForm.cfm?subj=issue

[Bayh, Evan](#) - (D - IN) Class III

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[Begich, Mark](#) - (D - AK) Class II

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[Bennet, Michael F.](#) - (D - CO) Class III

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[Bennett, Robert F.](#) - (R - UT) Class III

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[Bingaman, Jeff](#) - (D - NM) Class I

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Biographical Directory

Information about any senator, representative, vice president, or member of the Continental Congress.

Statistical Information

The Senators page on Statistics & Lists is a great resource for information about current and former Senators. Statistics are available on a variety of topics, including biographical characteristics and Senate service records.

Senators Phone List

This list of Senators' suite and phone numbers in pdf format is updated every couple of weeks at the beginning of a new Congress.

Organizational Chart

This [chart](#) shows the relationships among Senate leaders and officers who manage the flow of legislative and administrative business in the Senate.

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Committees

Standing

- [Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Appropriations](#)
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- [Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs](#)
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- [Energy and Natural Resources](#)
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- [Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#)
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- [Small Business and Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Veterans' Affairs](#)

Special, Select, and Other

- [Impeachment Trial Committee \(Porteous\)](#)
- [Indian Affairs](#)
- [Select Committee on Ethics](#)
- [Select Committee on Intelligence](#)
- [Special Committee on Aging](#)

Joint

- [Joint Committee on Printing](#)
- [Joint Committee on Taxation](#)
- [Joint Committee on the Library](#)
- [Joint Economic Committee](#)

About The Committee System

Due to the high volume and complexity of its work, the Senate divides its tasks among 20 committees, 68 subcommittees, and 4 joint committees. Although the Senate committee system is similar to that of the House of Representatives, it has its own guidelines, within which each committee adopts its own rules. This creates considerable variation among the panels.

[More...](#)

US Senate Caucuses

Informal congressional groups and organizations of Members with shared interests in specific issues or philosophies have been part of the American policymaking process since colonial times. Typically, these groups organize without official recognition by the chamber and are not funded through the appropriation process.

In the Senate there is one officially recognized caucus -- the [Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control](#) established by law in 1985.

Nomination Hearings

Read Senate Judiciary Committee [hearing transcripts](#) for Supreme Court nominees.

Impeachment Hearings

The impeachment hearings for [Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr.](#) began on April 13, 2010.

Supreme Court Nominations

[Supreme Court Nominations](#) is a list of nominees to the Court since 1789.

Related Links

[Frequently Asked Questions about Committees](#)

Find Hearings

To find committee hearings, [click here](#)

Committee Membership

Committee and subcommittee membership booklet is available from [GPO Access](#).

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- ▶ Advisory Councils
- ▶ Budget & GPRA
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- ▶ Communities That Care
- ▶ Contract Information
- ▶ Co-Occurring Disorders
- ▶ Disaster Readiness & Response
- ▶ Drug-Free Workplace
- ▶ Employment at SAMHSA
- ▶ Evidence-Based Practices Web Guide
- ▶ Faith-Based & Community Initiatives
- ▶ Fentanyl Drug Information
- ▶ Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- ▶ Financing
- ▶ Grants Information
- ▶ HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Medication Assisted Treatment
- ▶ National Outcome

LATEST HEADLINES

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- ▶ Underage Drinking-Related Hospital Department Visits Nearly Double over the 4th of July Weekend
- ▶ National Report Reveals Dramatic Pattern Shifts in Admission to Substance Abuse Treatment among Pregnant Teens between 1992 and 2007
- ▶ New National Study Shows that Only Six Percent of Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities Offer Specialized Services for Gays and Lesbians
- ▶ Model Program Effective in Helping Individuals with Serious Mental Illness Get Medicaid Coverage Upon Release from Correctional Facilities
- ▶ SAMHSA Releases FAQ's for Applying Substance Abuse Confidentiality Regulations to Health Information Exchange

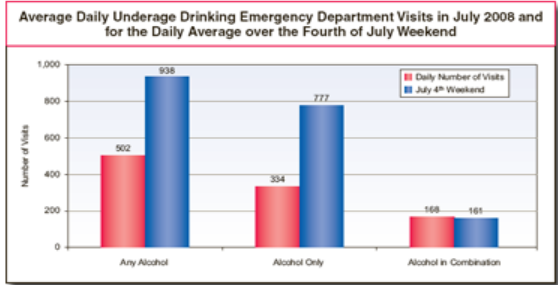
FEATURES

- ▶ BP Gulf Oil Spill - Mental Health Awareness in Times of Emotional Distress
- ▶ BP Gulf Oil Spill - HHS Health Response
- ▶ SAMHSA's 10 Strategic Initiatives

SPOTLIGHTS

Underage Drinking-Related Hospital Dept Visits Nearly Double over the 4th of July Weekend

According to a new SAMHSA study, daily underage drinking-related visits to hospital emergency departments are 87 percent higher during the July 4th weekend than on an average day in July. [Read more about it here.](#)



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A



What a Difference a Friend Makes

What do you do if your friend is dealing with mental health problems? Everything you've already been doing. Friends can make all the difference in the recovery process by just being there and offering support, friendship, strength and acceptance. Visit whatadifference.samhsa.gov to see how you can make a difference.

Teen Suicide Prevention Campaign

Find resources to help get through the tough times; Hear from other teens that have been there and made it.



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1-800-273-TALK(8255)
SuicidePreventionLifeline.org

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- ▶ A Substance Abuse Problem
- ▶ A Mental Health Problem
- ▶ Grants Information
- ▶ Grant Awards by State
- ▶ Statistics & Data
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Training Resources
- ▶ Doing Business With SAMHSA
- ▶ FAQs

CENTERS & OFFICES

- ▶ Center for Mental Health Services - CMHS
- ▶ Center for Substance Abuse Prevention - CSAP
- ▶ Center for Substance Abuse Treatment - CSAT
- ▶ Office of Applied Studies - OAS

[MORE >>>](#)

SAMHSA NEWSLETTER



Key Phone Numbers to Know

➤ White House Switchboard

- 202-456-1414



➤ US Capitol

- Senate
 - 202-224-3121
- House
 - 202-225-3121



Google your state government and legislature web sites, e.g.

- www.alabama.gov and www.legislature.state.al.us

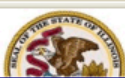


- www.illinois.gov and
- www.ilga.gov



- www.wv.gov and
- www.legis.state.wv.us





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SENATE

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HOUSE

Not In Today

Next: 11/16/2010
12:00 PM

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Rules & Regulations

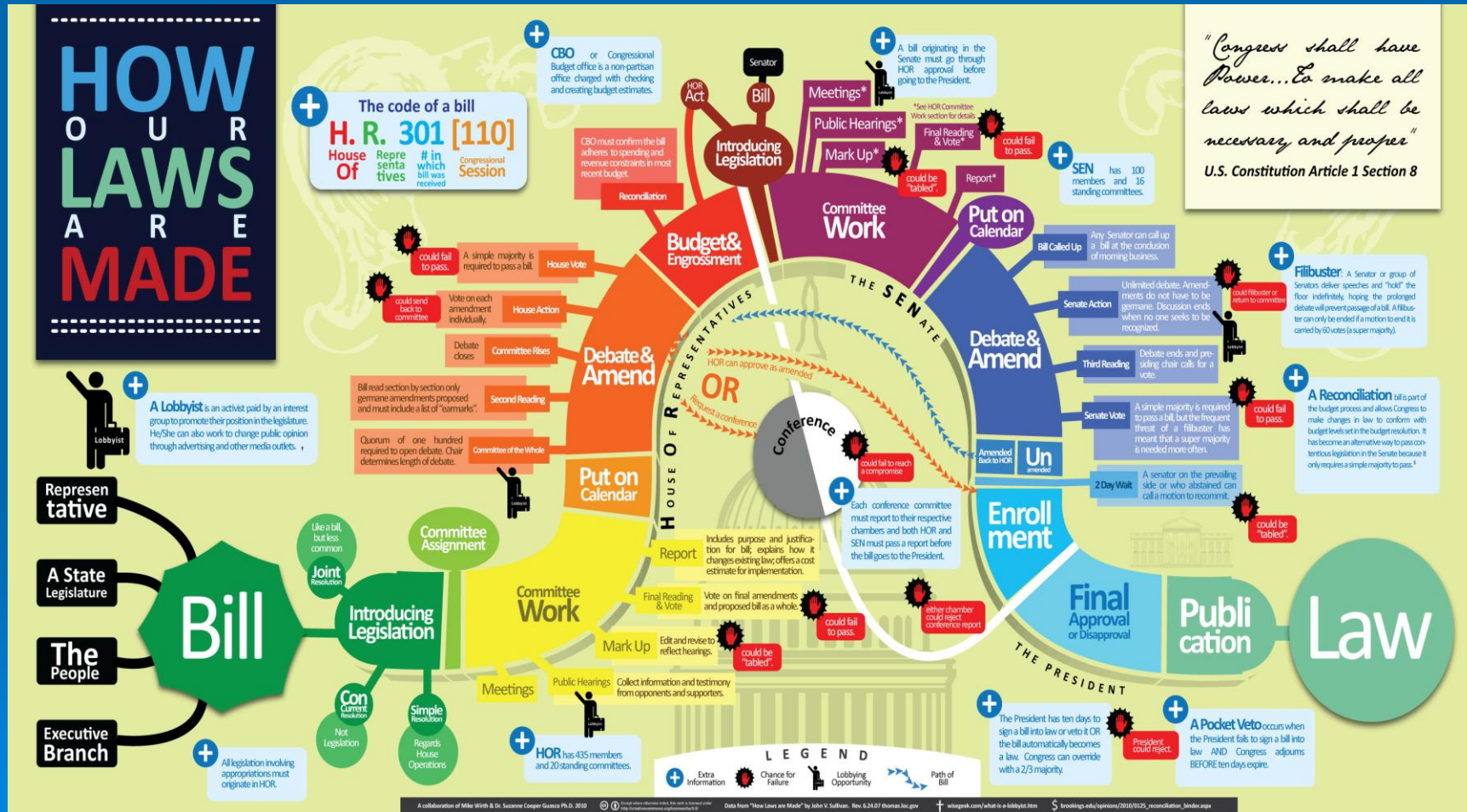
[Administrative Rules](#)

[Illinois Register](#)

ADA [Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities \(click here\)](#)



Federal and State Legislative Process – Similarities and differences?



At the state level, beyond legislative issues -

- Plan a Suicide Awareness Event in your State Capitol
- Ask the Governor to declare a statewide Suicide Prevention Week
- Form a state commission for suicide prevention



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Federal and State Public Policy - Recap

- Research your issue – organize your thoughts!
- Be armed with the facts – Localize and personalize
- Federal, state and local suicide prevention, education and research resources

Reach out to Survivors -

- Support groups at local hospitals, hospices, places of worship, community centers and schools
- Try to get Survivors interested in the AFSP Field Advocate program



Reach out to local media -



Establish relationships with local reporters

- Write a letter to the Editor or an Op-Ed piece for your local paper
- Provide dates and times for survivor meetings and education classes to media
- Review AFSP media guidelines

Speak at a city/town Council or School Board meeting, benefits include-

- Opportunity to speak to a large number of public officials at once
- Reach like-minded members of your community
- Make contact with local reporters covering the meeting

Reaching out Locally - Recap

- Reach out to Survivors
- Local suicide prevention and education collaborators
- Local Media
- Other local opportunities to reach out

Reaching out to Public Officials

➤ You can-

- Write, phone or email Members of Congress or other officials
- Make an appointment to meet your public officials
- Work on and distribute nonpartisan analyses and studies
- Provide technical assistance and advice to legislative bodies
- Provide testimony
- Write letters to the editor, appear on television or radio
- Encourage family, neighbors and friends to be involved

Reaching out to Public Officials

➤ You can not –

- Use your non-profit/corporate affiliation to endorse or oppose candidates
- Use your non-profit/corporate affiliation for any electioneering

When speaking or visiting with a Public Official

- Be brief – brevity is appreciated
- Explain your personal or professional interest in suicide prevention issues
- Know how the issue affects suicide prevention, education or research
- Know precisely what you want the public official to do
- Offer to be a resource on suicide prevention issues
- Leave behind short issue briefs or other information
- Be cordial
- If you have time, follow up with a thank you note

When writing or emailing a public official

- Fully state your case, using the same facts you would in a visit
- Make clear you expect a prompt response
- Be polite and courteous, never threaten or challenge
- If possible, follow up with a phone call, and say so in your letter or email

Reaching Out to Public Officials - Recap

- Communicating with your elected officials and their staff – Be brief and to the point!
- Writing or emailing an elected official – Make your case clearly!
- Visiting with your elected official – Remember their staff is important!

Stay in Touch! Become a Resource to your Elected Officials!



Making a Difference!



Thank You!

John Madigan, Senior Director of Public Policy
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