An ASHA Publication

# CAPITOL CONNECTION





## **ASHA's Summer of Advocacy**

2021

SEPTEMBER/

**OCTOBER** 

**HISTORICALLY, SUMMERS ON CAPITOL HILL** are a quiet period when lawmakers spend much of the month of August on Congressional recess in their home states. This year, like the past eighteen months, has been anything but ordinary.

ASHA has kept up its intense lobbying efforts throughout the summer culminating in the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) September 10th announcement of a forthcoming Phase 4 distribution from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF). Below are some highlights of ASHA's advocacy in action this past summer:

- ASHA held meetings with HRSA, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the White House Domestic Policy Council (DPC) to advocate for the immediate release of the remaining PRF funds and stressed the importance of private pay assisted living being included in any subsequent rounds of funding.
- A bipartisan Senate letter, led by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and signed by 48 other Senators, was sent to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra requesting the release of the funds remaining in the PRF. ASHA's members were instrumental in this effort generating more than 400 letters to Senators encouraging them to participate in this sign-on letter.
- While ASHA and its members advocated for HHS/HRSA to release the funds, there was an ongoing threat of Congress raiding the remaining PRF money to pay for its bipartisan \$1 trillion infrastructure legislation. ASHA, and industry partners, successfully lobbied against Congress using the PRF money as an infrastructure pay-for, which would have jeopardized a Phase 4 distribution.
- In addition to advocating for senior living's critical need of relief funds, ASHA weighed in with Congressional leaders, the House Ways & Means Committee, and the House Energy & Commerce Committee on our priorities in the Biden Administration's \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package. ASHA emphasized that senior living is a home and communitybased service (HCBS) relative to the caregiving infrastructure proposal that will expand the Medicaid program; stressed the need for solutions, including immigration reform, to caregiving workforce shortages; and called for long-term care financing reform.
- ASHA also joined national real estate organizations expressing concern with a number of tax and offset proposals that would reduce investment and capital flows to real estate, including seniors housing.

continued inside



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Without strong Congressional relationships many of our accomplishments would not have been possible. This only reinforces the importance of building key relationships with members of Congress from both parties.

The Seniors Housing PAC (SH PAC) helps ASHA connect with elected officials in both parties and support the re-election campaigns of industry champions. This summer, thanks to the support of ASHA members and the SH PAC, ASHA hosted successful events for Senator James Lankford (R-OK) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY). Both Senator Lankford and Senator Schumer have been consistent voices in support of the senior living industry's access to Provider Relief Funds. Being able to support these Senators and hold direct conversations with them focused on the senior living industry, is an important component of ASHA's federal advocacy efforts.

As Congress returns to a busy year-end legislative session, ASHA will continue to engage with members of Congress on the important issues impacting senior living owners and operators.

On August 26, 2021, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) led a bipartisan letter signed by 48 Senators requesting the immediate release of Provider Relief Funds.



#### Save the Date: 2021 Chairman's Circle Event

Members who make a personal contribution of \$2,000 - \$5,000 to the Seniors Housing PAC in 2021 are eligible to attend the Chairman's Circle Event on October 11-12 in Charleston, SC.

This event will feature a strategic roundtable discussion, golf outing, hands on cooking class with a world class chef, historic walking tour, and relaxed networking.

Please contact Sheff Richey at sheff@ashaliving.org with any questions about the Seniors Housing PAC, this year's event, or hotel reservations.

### **Current 2021 Chairman's Circle Level Contributors**

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#### Current 2021 Chairman's Circle Level Contributors (cont.)

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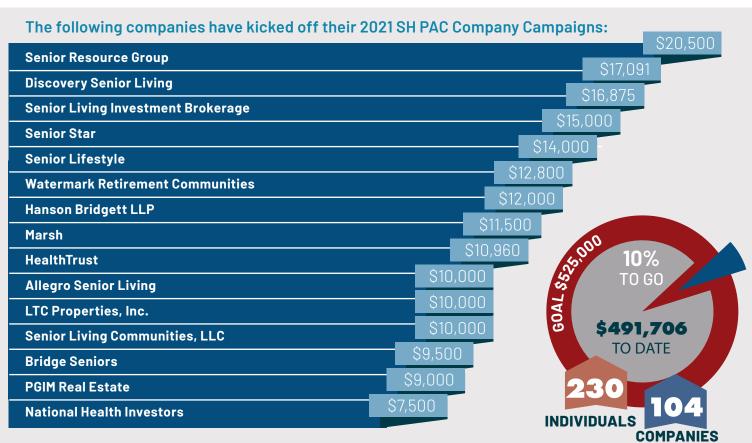
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3

#### 2021 Company Campaigns

Running a company campaign is a great way to maximize the SH PAC's support. **Click here** for our guide on how to run an SH PAC company campaign. For more information or campaign materials, please contact Sheff Richey at sheff@ashaliving.org.



#### 2021 SH PAC Campaign Update

As of September 21, 2021, the SH PAC is over 90% towards its 2021 goal of \$525,000. So far this year 230 individuals from 104 companies have contributed **\$491,706** to the SH PAC.

#### Disbursements

So far this year the SH PAC has disbursed **\$335,500** to **50 Members of the House of Representatives** and **44 Senators**. The SH PAC supports candidates on a bipartisan basis. Spending by political party is intended to roughly reflect the composition of Congress. Currently, the Democratic Party controls the U.S. House and Senate.

## For further information on any of the topics in this *Capitol Connection*, please contact:

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For access to all links referenced in this *Capitol Connection*, please login to the "Members Area" of the ASHA website (www.ashaliving.org)

44 HOUSE PERFORMENT \$335,500 DISBURSEMENT 50 SEMILYINGS

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Numbers as of September 21, 2021.

American Seniors Housing ASSOCIATION

To receive login credentials, contact Meghan Bertoni at megs@ashaliving.org.