



Legislative Advocacy

National Public Health Week (NPHW) is the ideal opportunity to showcase APHA's year-long advocacy initiatives. It is also a great opportunity to find new advocates in your community. Remember, an advocate is a supporter or defender of a cause. Being a public health advocate gives people the opportunity to influence the way the public and policymakers think and act on public health policies.

APHA engages in both education and advocacy campaigns. Public and policymaker education campaigns communicate information about specific public health issues. Advocacy campaigns encompass efforts to engage the public, members or target groups in activities intended to influence policy without requesting action on any specific legislation.

For the 2nd Session of the 111th Congress, APHA's primary priorities for federal legislation are:

- Health reform.
- Climate change.
- Transportation reauthorization.
- Public health funding (CDC/HRSA/HHS).
- Child nutrition reauthorization.
- Public health workforce and infrastructure.

Visit the Advocacy section on www.nphw.org to learn more about advocating for these priorities and others during NPHW.

Start small...

- Use the sample proclamation, letter to public officials and telephone script toolkit to reach out to your local and state public officials
- Write your own letter to Congress to ask your congressional representatives to support initiatives that make our air cleaner.
- Vote for representatives that support health – and environmentally-friendly policies.

Think big...

- Organize and participate in meetings with legislative staff or members of Congress.
- Organize and participate in legislative briefings.
- Send out advocacy alerts to mobilize action.
- Submit testimony for the record.
- Submit comments on regulatory issues.



Sample Letter to Public Official

APHA will continue to mobilize its members, affiliates and other advocates to educate legislators about the need to include strong public health and prevention provisions and a public plan in health reform legislation. During National Public Health Week 2010, we are asking NPHW partners to write their legislators to raise awareness of public health's critical role in making America healthier.

Where to Start? Writing a letter to your Senators and Representative can be effective in both influencing health reform legislation and expressing the importance of strong public health provisions to you, your community and your state. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, ask to be connected to the office of your legislators, and ask for the main office mailing address. Visit www.nphw.org/nphw10/layout_pg_involved.htm for a sample letter to public officials.



Sample Telephone Script for Calling Your Elected Leaders

APHA will continue to mobilize its members, affiliates and other advocates to educate legislators about the need to include strong public health and prevention provisions and a public plan in health reform legislation. During National Public Health Week 2010, we are asking NPHW partners to call and meet with their legislators to raise awareness of public health's critical role in making America healthier.

Where to Start? Call the offices of your Senators and Representative to schedule an in-person meeting or find out when they are hosting town hall meetings or other forums in your community. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to the office of your legislators. Visit www.nphw.org/nphw10/layout_pg_involved.htm for a sample telephone script for calling elected leaders.