



Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior

Nutrition Educators as Advocates: A Day on Capitol Hill

ACPP Pre-Conference Workshop

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Why is Advocacy Needed? What is Advocacy?



Tracy Fox, MPH, RD

President, Food, Nutrition & Policy Consultants, LLC

Culver, IN

tracy@foodnutritionpolicy.com

[@TracyFoxRD](#)

Lobbying vs. Advocacy

Lobbying

- Influencing the legislative process either directly or through grassroots approaches – appeals to the public/others suggesting that they contact their elected rep.
- Definition varies based on individual and organization.
- Narrowly defined in laws; ind. and orgs. that lobby must comply with laws; public funds generally cannot go towards lobbying; not-for-profit status can be questioned.

Advocacy

It's OK to Advocate!

- Advocacy refers to the set of skills used to create a shift in public opinion and mobilize the necessary resources and forces to support an issue, policy, or constituency.
- Lobbying generally includes advocacy; advocacy does not necessarily include lobbying.
- No statutes or legal terms for advocacy.
- Don't have to register to be an advocate.
- While everyone is (or should be) an advocate, not everyone is a lobbyist! (thank goodness...).

Strengthening Your Involvement

- **Visit D.C. and your state capital to meet your legislators in their own environment.**
- Send promotional items, newsletters, and press clippings to your elected representatives on a regular basis.
- Invite local Congressional staff & Members to visit your facility and to visit various agencies.
- Stay updated on what lawmakers are up to and connect with them regularly.



Examples

- Developing non-partisan research and analysis (preparation of issue briefs; one-pagers about your program).
- Briefing policy makers on public health funding issues, infrastructure, or a public health epidemic in your area like lead poisoning, obesity, diabetes.
- Testifying at a Board of Ed open meeting on nutrition education in schools; vending machines in schools.
- Briefing policy makers and taking a position on a particular piece of legislation that will negatively impact public health.
- Being asked to testify.
- Asking to testify.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Meade

The Big Picture Items in Congress



The four congressional actions the White House wants to see before the August recess



Pass a repeal of Obamacare before members of Congress return to their constituents



Lift the debt ceiling to prevent the risk of defaulting on debt obligations



Agree on the outlines of a broad overhaul of the nation's tax code



Clear outstanding executive and judicial branch nominations

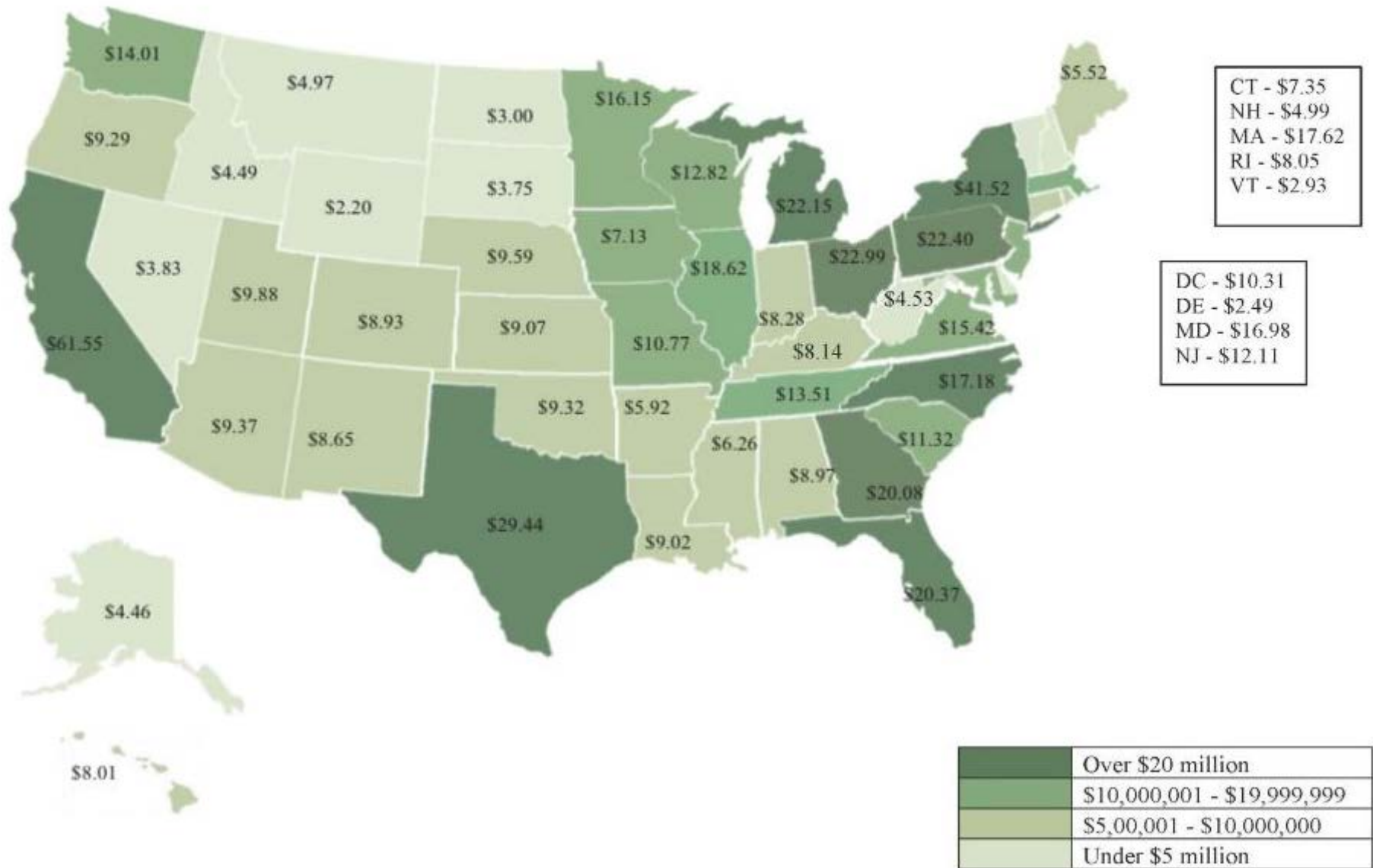
Health Care State of Play

- Important for nutrition education –
Prevention and Public Health Fund State Fact
Sheets

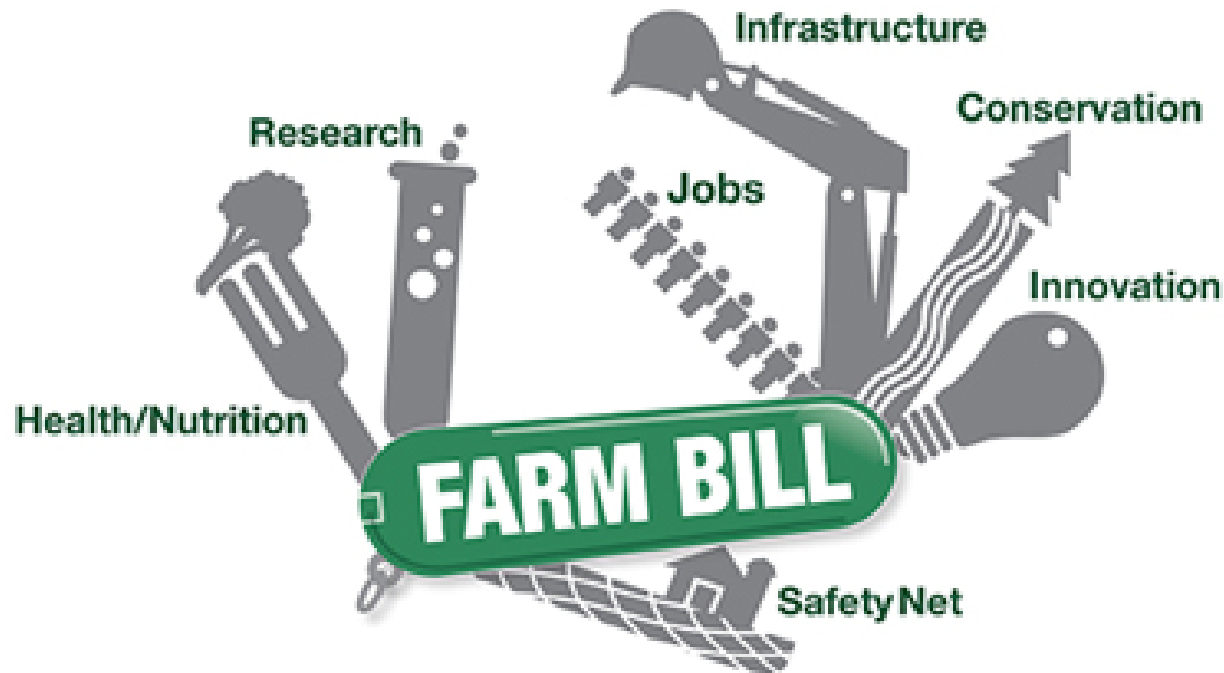


- Passed in the House
- Senate staying in town
- What's next?

**Total Centers for Disease Control Prevention and Public Health Fund
Allocations by State (Fiscal Year 2016)**
(in millions, numbers are rounded)



Nutrition Education Programs in the Farm Bill



“It’s like a Swiss Army knife.”

- President Obama 2/7/14

The budget process has six steps

The Federal Budget Process (In Theory)

1



In early February, submits the President's annual budget request, detailing the administration's goals for federal revenue and spending, program-by-program funding levels, and project deficits and surpluses.

2



By April 15, Senate and House Budget Committees draft budget resolutions to set total levels of discretionary funding available for the next fiscal year.

3



Working within the discretionary funding limits set by the budget resolutions, House and Senate Appropriations Committees assign to each of their twelve subcommittees the task of determining program-by-program funding.

4



The Appropriations Committees amend and pass subcommittee appropriations bills.

5



Senate and House leadership negotiate passing all unfinished subcommittee bills together in an omnibus bill. If Congress fails to do this by October 1, it must pass a continuing resolution to keep programs funded, or face partial government shutdown.

6



The President signs the omnibus bill or continuing resolution.

Nominations & Confirmations in the Senate

