

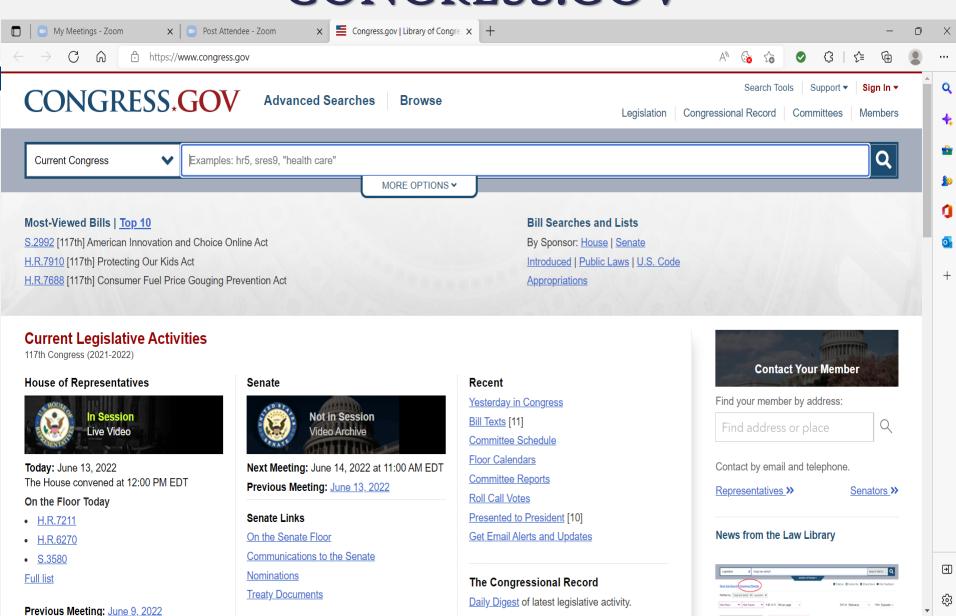
#### **CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR**

# PREPARATION FOR STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL ADVOCACY

- □ Identify your congressional members
  - What committees are they serving on
  - What is their position on the issue or bill of interest
  - Congress.gov Library of Congress



## **CONGRESS.GOV**



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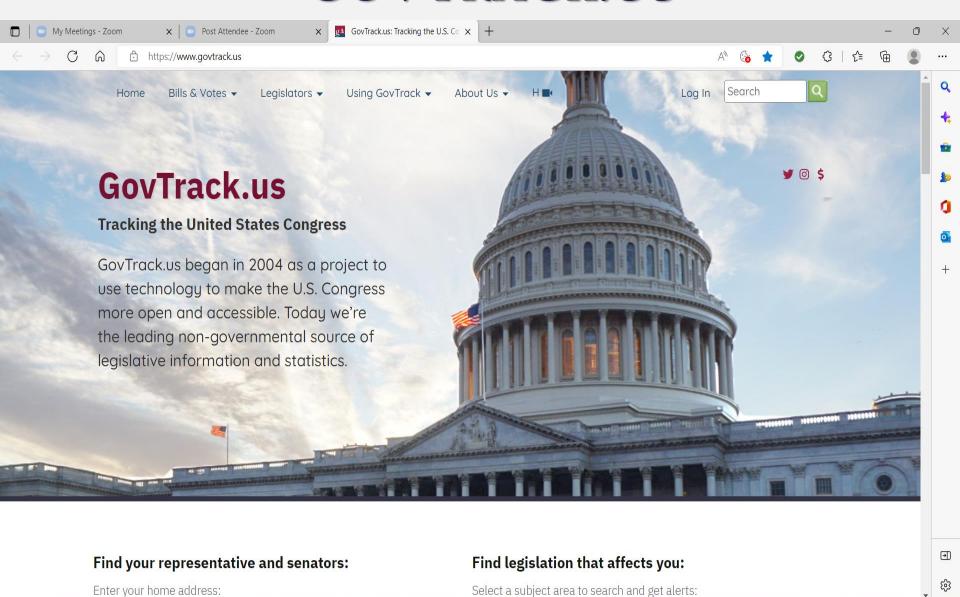








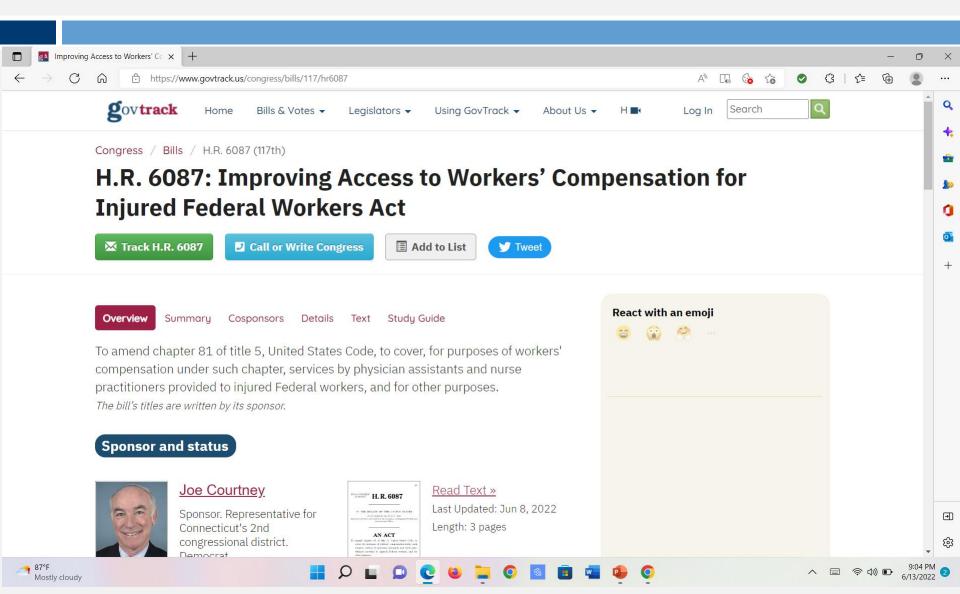
## **GOVTRACK.US**



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## H.R. 6087





### **PREPARATION**

- □ Identify the bill
  - GovTrack.us: Tracking the U.S. Congress
  - Answer the Who, What, Which, andWhy to prepare for your letter, visit, or call



## WHO?

- □ Sponsorship
  - Is the bill sponsored in both houses?
  - How many have signed on as sponsors?
- □ Stakeholders
  - Who are the stakeholders?
  - Are they affected positively or negatively?
  - What is the possibility of negative effect on the stakeholders?

## WHAT?

- □ History of bill
  - Why is the bill being considered?
  - How did it evolve to its current status?
  - Is it been down regulated to weaken the law with an amendment?
  - Will it be more stringent in the guidelines?
  - What is it replacing?
- □ Social implications
  - Will it be more favorable of one group than another?
  - Statistical support

## WHAT?

- □ Economic implications
  - How will the cost of the bill be covered?
- □ Legal implications
  - Will it override a state law?
- □ Ethical implications
  - Will there be harm or (cause) inequity?

#### WHICH?

- □ Political Implications
  - Which part of the bill is a pro or con for the legislator?
    - What is the opinion of the constituents?
    - What pressure is the political party using for this bill?

## WHY?

- Discuss legislative issues and impact they have on patient care
  - Be clear on your ask "cosponsor H.R. or S. bill # and title"
  - Real life story: Describe at a high level using a deidentified patient example
  - Focus on access, quality and cost-effectiveness
    - Data speaks volumes (leave a one page brief\*)
  - Focus on local impact (your patients/legislator's constituents)

## WHY?

- □ Questions & Answers (importance of preparation)
  - If you don't know the answer be honest and let them know you'll get back to them
  - Offer to be a resource for questions
- □ Thank legislator or legislative staff member
- Send follow-up email with summary and reminder you're available

## COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LEGISLATORS

□ Face to Face (live and virtual)

□ Email

□ Phone Call

## **ENGAGEMENT: FACE TO FACE**

- □ Rule of Three (Rep. Lauren Underwood GA)
  - No more than 3 people to visit with staff and/or legislator
  - No more than **30** minutes for visit
  - No more than 3 items to discuss
- □ Introduction
  - Introduce each person, city and state for Federal
  - Brief background of the RN/NP role
- □ Discuss bill

## **ENGAGEMENT: EMAIL**

- □ Introduce yourself:
  - Name, city, state
  - Nursing role
- □ Compose a letter no more than ¾ page of a word document (can cut and paste into email)
  - Use sections of one page brief
  - Executive summary of bill
  - Position on bill (for, against, needs a change)
  - □ Provide effect it will have on stakeholders of concern
  - No attachments (email will go to spam)
  - Use personal email

## **ENGAGEMENT: CALL**

- □ Provide name, city, state
- □ Role as nurse
- □ Short information on why to support or not

- ☐ If calling day of bill being voted, the staff will want to know:
  - Yes, you support the bill or
  - No, you do not support the bill

## **SHARE**

- □ Share experiences on the GAPNA Exchange
  - State updates
  - Federal updates
  - Check settings to get daily updates

## **RESOURCES**

- □ GAPNA Website: News and Advocacy sections
- □ GAPNA Exchange: Health Affairs Committee
- □ GAPNA Health Affairs Committee on website

