

Education  
Directorate



Government  
Relations  
Office



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

# Before We Start





- ❑ **RIGHT NOW:** Seated by States with your Hill Visit Folder
- ❑ End of Today: Hill Visit Schedules Handed Out
- ❑ **TOMORROW: Tuesday - 7:30 AM (Federal A/B)**
  - Congressional Staff/Member Folders Provided
  - Bring Business Cards
  - Fill-Out Debriefing Forms
  - Email Thank-You (*sample will be sent*)
  - Get Receipts for Cabs

**\*Important – Cancellation of Hill Appointments If You Can't Attend**

**You Must Pick-Up Congressional Member/Staff Folder  
By 8:30 AM Tomorrow !**

Education  
Directorate



Government  
Relations  
Office



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

# Getting Ready for Your Capitol Hill Visits



Pictured: Robert Collins, PhD, Jim Diaz-Granados, PhD, James Bray, PhD and Rep. Gene Green (D-TX)

Education  
Directorate



Government  
Relations  
Office



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

# **Review of the Legislative Request for Hill Visits**



# FY 2015 “Ask” for GPE Funding

*Urge Members to Support \$8.9 Million Funding for the Graduate Psychology Education Program*

## Special Focus on:

- ☐ Returning Servicemembers, Veterans and their families, especially in rural areas
- ☐ Integration of doctoral-level psychology trainees at Federally Qualified Health Centers
- ☐ Geropsychology grants focusing on the needs of underserved older adults



## Funding Picture for GPE

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| FY 2014                     | \$6.9 Million     |
| FY 2015 Senate <b>Draft</b> | \$8.9 Million     |
| FY2015 House                | no draft bill yet |

**Congress Still Debating the Continuing  
Resolution = \$6.9 million for GPE**



# Why Advocate for Funding for the GPE Program?



Education  
Directorate



Government  
Relations  
Office



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

# Current Political Climate



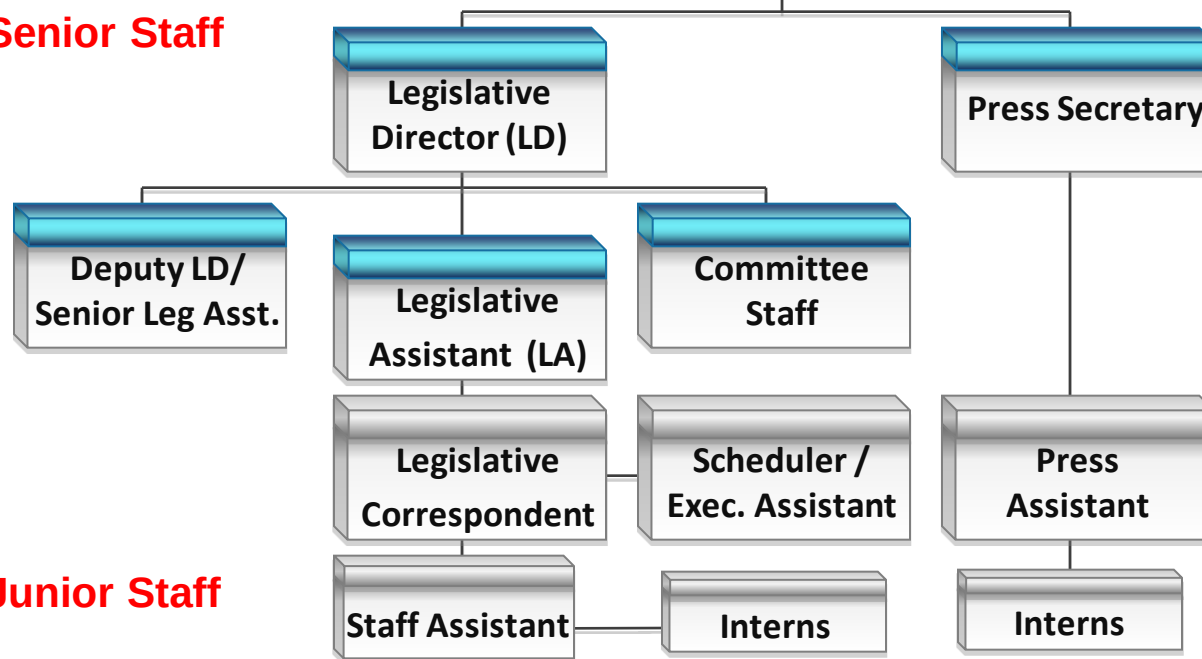


# House/Senate DC Office Organizational Chart



Member of Congress

Senior Staff



Junior Staff



# Interacting with Legislators and/or Staff

## *First...The Do's*

- ☐ Be positive
- ☐ Present a clear and concise message
- ☐ Be brief and stay on message
- ☐ Give local examples/anecdotes/data
- ☐ Ask for support from Member
- ☐ Discuss follow-up, if appropriate
- ☐ Express appreciation for meeting



# Interacting with Legislators and/or Staff

## *Now...The Don'ts*

- ☐ Don't underestimate staff
- ☐ Don't be surprised if another issue is raised  
(or a question you can't answer is asked)
- ☐ Don't overestimate the influence of data
- ☐ Don't forget you're the expert...  
(and the voter)



# You Make the Difference!

- ❑ Meeting with your Member of Congress or their staff can be a highly effective advocacy tool
- ❑ Such visits can serve to inform and influence on specific policies and help in developing ongoing relationships with policymakers



Carol Falender, PhD, Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), and Linda Juang, PhD



# Hill Visit Easy Reference Sticker

- **INTRODUCTION:** Your Name /Title/Institution
- **Purpose of the Visit:** FY 2015 funding for the HRSA Graduate Psychology Education Program (GPE)
- **HOOK:** I'm a constituent and psychologist urging you to support \$8.9 million FY 2015 funding for the GPE Program in the Health Resources and Services Administration's "Mental and Behavioral Health" account.
- **LINE:** GPE supports interprofessional training of graduate psychology students while they provide (supervised) mental and behavioral health services to underserved populations in rural and urban communities.
- **SINKER:** Please support \$8.9 million in FY 2015 funding for the GPE program...Thank you.



# **Remember Be Sure to Let them know!**

**☐ If You Have (or Had) a GPE Grant**

**OR**

**☐ If You/Your Institution Wants One**



# **Is Your Representative/Senator a Member of the Appropriations Committee?**

- ✓ He/She is a Powerful Decision-Maker
- ✓ Opportunity to Make a Strong Case for Protecting Funding for GPE
- ✓ Consult List of Members Serving on the Senate or House Appropriations Committee



# Questions Legislators/Staff Might Ask

- ☐ Is there a “Dear Colleague” Letter?
- ☐ How much would the bill/project cost?
- ☐ Who supports or opposes the legislation?  
*(e.g., Members of Congress; Organizations/Associations)*
- ☐ What is in the Administration’s budget?



# What if Staff/Member Asks...

## “What Can I Do to Help?”

**Reply:** “Please express support to the Appropriations Committee Chair or Ranking Member; urge that GPE be funded at \$8.9 million in FY 2015.”

### **Senate Appropriations Committee**

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) – Chairwoman

Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) – Ranking Member

### **House Appropriations Committee**

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) – Chairman

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) – Ranking Member



# After Your Congressional Visit

- ☐ Complete the “debriefing” forms and return them to Ohio Room (Capital Hilton Hotel)
- ☐ Use the Soapbox App to provide special feedback and to share your photos [www.sboxapp.com](http://www.sboxapp.com)
- ☐ Write a thank you letter/email (sample to be sent)
- ☐ Continue contact with the Congressional Office
- ☐ Keep informed on the issues

Education  
Directorate



Government  
Relations  
Office



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

# ***“What to Expect on Your Hill Visits & Preparing for Successful Hill Visits”***

Christopher Kush, MPP  
President  
*Soapbox Consulting*



# A Few Reminders

☐ 5:30 PM – North Gate Grill – Special ELC Reception  
**Congresswoman Nita Lowey**

## Tomorrow

☐ 7:30 AM – Federal A/B

Breakfast and Final Hill Visit Preparations

Distribution of Congressional Member/Staff (MOC) Folders

**(Must Pick-Up Congressional Folders By 8:30 AM)**