



# ASHA Members Bring Senior Living Policy Priorities Directly to Congress

## ASHA Advocates on Capitol Hill

**ON SEPTEMBER 25-26, FOLLOWING THE NIC CONFERENCE AND PRIOR TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECESS**, 20 ASHA members joined the ASHA Legislative Team for a day-and-a-half of industry advocacy on Capitol Hill.

Those participating included ASHA Chair Kathy Sweeney, Blue Moon Capital Partners, ASHA Policy Committee Chair Michelle Kelly, National Health Investors; and ASHA Immediate Past Chair Jerry Frumm, Senior Lifestyle.

Additionally, several owners, operators, capital providers and other partners to the industry joined this impressive group of advocates.

Among them were Hilary Bullard of Morada Senior Living; Doug Dollenberg and Jeff Hettleman of Brightview Senior Living; Jason Dopoulos of Ikaria Capital Group; Vince Gerbec of August Health; Jim Gray of Bridgwood Property Group; Evan Kuo of ALIS by Medtelligent; Scott Lieber of Marsh; Jenn McGurty of AEW Capital Management; Mike McMillen of SafelyYou; Shannon Rusk of Oppidan; Bryan Schachter of Watermark Retirement Communities; Bill Sciortino of Discovery Senior Living; Christian Sweetser of Erickson Senior Living; Bob Thomas of Senior Star; Sam Wieser of Omega Healthcare Investors; and Jason Zuccari of Hamilton Insurance

Collectively, we covered 18 congressional offices to meet with the following Members of Congress and/or staff: Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC); Senator Tedd Budd (R-NC); Senator James Lankford (R-OK);

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# CAPITOL CONNECTION



## SENIORS HOUSING POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD);  
Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV);  
Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS);  
Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH);  
Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA),  
Senator Jon Tester (D-MT),  
Representative Steny Hoyer  
(D-MD), Representative Lori Trahan  
(D-MA); Representative Richard  
Hudson (R-NC); Representative  
Mike Bost (R-IL); Representative  
Suzan DelBene (D-WA);  
Representative Debbie Dingell  
(D-MI); Representative Brett  
Guthrie (R-KY); Representative  
Blake Moore (R-UT), and  
Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL).

Our meetings focused primarily on the need to find policy solutions for our industry's workforce shortage and to pass ASHA-led legislation that will create a pilot program to allow eligible veterans to access assisted living in lieu of institutional care. Our advocates highlighted the important role that senior living plays and stressed the important role of private investment in seniors housing – including both REIT investment

and investment from private equity. This was an impressive set of meetings, both in terms of number and importance of offices visited and strengthening our presence on Capitol Hill.

Importantly, we secured co-sponsorship on the House Veterans bill from Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA), who signed onto H.R. 1815 after the ASHA meeting, and we were encouraged by our discussion with Senator Jon Tester's staff about the bills' prospects for passage in the post-election "lame duck" session.

These efforts create additional awareness about senior living issues and the value of our industry to residents and family members. Congress is now in recess until after the elections. This is the perfect time to host a policymaker at your community. Witnessing firsthand the work that goes into making senior living "home" to a resident leads to creating the positive narrative owners and operators deserve.

**For information  
about supporting ASHA's  
Seniors Housing PAC,  
please contact Sheff Richey  
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