



HEALTH POLICY ACADEMY

Introduction to Congress and the Legislative Process

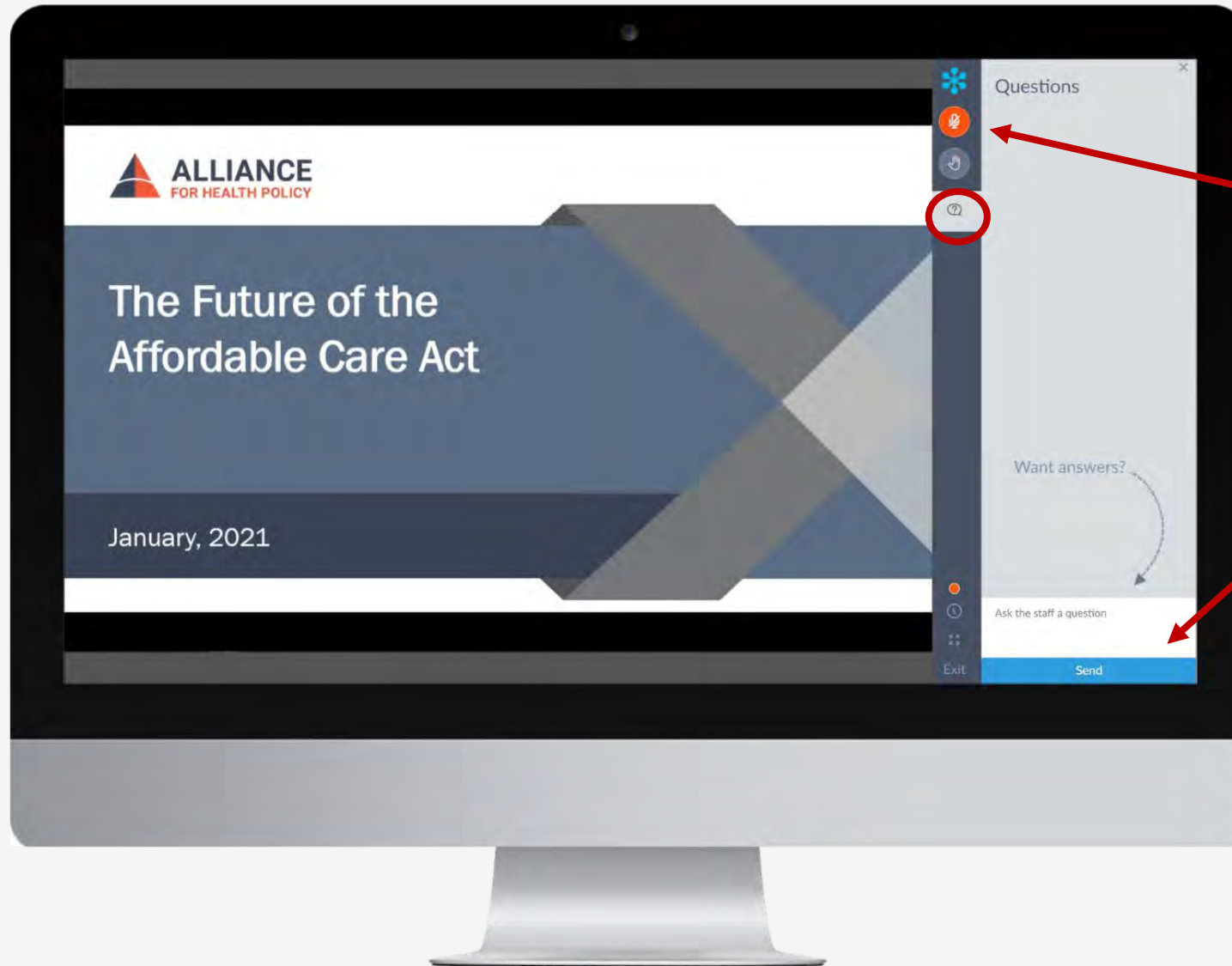
May 7, 2021



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Participating in the Webinar



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Nick Uehlecke

Principal, Todd Strategy Group

Former Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary at HHS

Former Committee on Ways and Means Staffer



Panelists



James "JP" Paluskiewicz
Senior Policy Advisor
Alston & Bird



Joy McGlaun
Senior Director, Government Affairs
CVS Health



Sarah Levin, MPH
Deputy Director of Medicare and Drug
Policy
U.S. House Representatives Ways and
Means Committee



Nick Uehlecke
Principal, Todd Strategy Group
Former Senior Advisor, Office of the
Secretary at HHS
Former Committee on Ways and Means
Staffer

Moderator





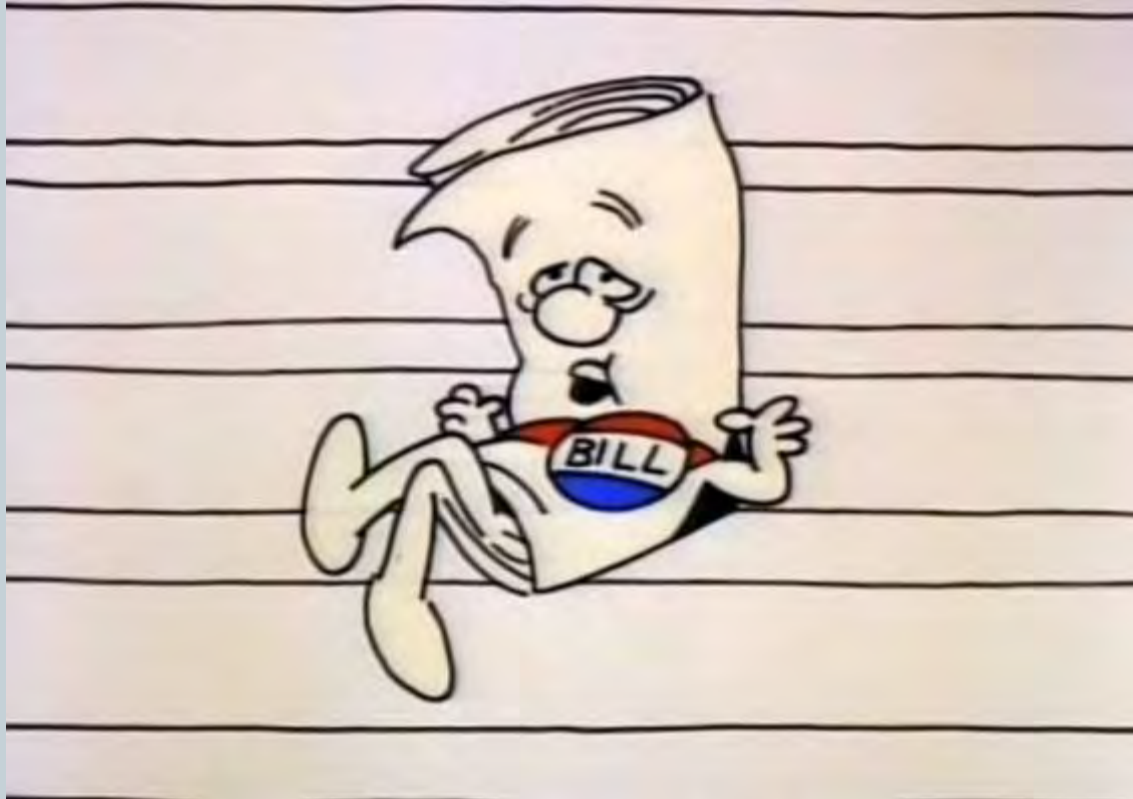
James “JP” Paluskiewicz
Senior Policy Advisor
Alston & Bird



Congress... How Does It Work? And Why Should You Care?



It's Not Like This At All...



We Have Come A Long Way...



Understanding the Executive/ Legislative Relationship



We Have Three Separate Branches with Separate Powers...Or Do We?

- “The limits on command suggest the structure of our government. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 is supposed to have created a government of "separated powers." It did nothing of the sort. Rather, it created a government of separated institutions sharing powers. "I am part of the legislative process," Eisenhower often said in 1959 as a reminder of his veto. Congress, the dispenser of authority and funds, is no less part of the administrative process. Federalism adds another set of separated institutions. The Bill of Rights adds others. Many public purposes can only be achieved by voluntary acts of private institutions; the press, for one, in Douglass Cater's phrase, is a "fourth branch of government." Richard Neustadt

Understanding the Executive/ Legislative Relationship



Congress' Job Is To Write Laws... Or Is It?

- In understanding the relationship in the competition for power between the branches every action by each actor must be evaluated by:
 - Success vs. influence
 - What is the goal?

Understanding the Executive/ Legislative Relationship



**There Is Never A Guarantee of Legislative Action, But
When is it More Likely?**

- **Legislative Opportunity**
 - Time
 - Policy
 - Ideology
 - Partisanship
 - Crosscutting



Joy McGlaun

Senior Director, Government Affairs
CVS Health





Senate Committees and Legislative Process

Joy McGlaun

Senate Health Care Committees

Primary Committees of Health Care Jurisdiction

- **Senate Finance Committee:** Medicare, Medicaid, and “other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund..”
- **Senate Health, Education, Labor, Pensions (HELP) Committee:** Public health, health insurance, programmatic authorizations, FDA, CDC, NIH, the Administration on Aging, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to name a few.

Every Committee Has Important Health Care Jurisdiction

- **Appropriations:** Funding health care programs
- **Indian Affairs:** Indian Health Service
- **Veterans’ Affairs:** Veterans Health Administration
- **Budget:** Budget Resolution
- **Commerce:** Telehealth
- **Aging Committee:** Oversight and Education
- **Armed Services:** TRICARE

Senate Legislative Process



Sarah Levin, MPH

Deputy Director of Medicare and Drug Policy
U.S. House Representatives Ways and Means
Committee



Making the Sausage

Working with the Administration and Utilizing Congressional Support Agencies



"You were right—I really didn't want to know how it's made, because that was incredibly boring."

Cartoon from The New Yorker

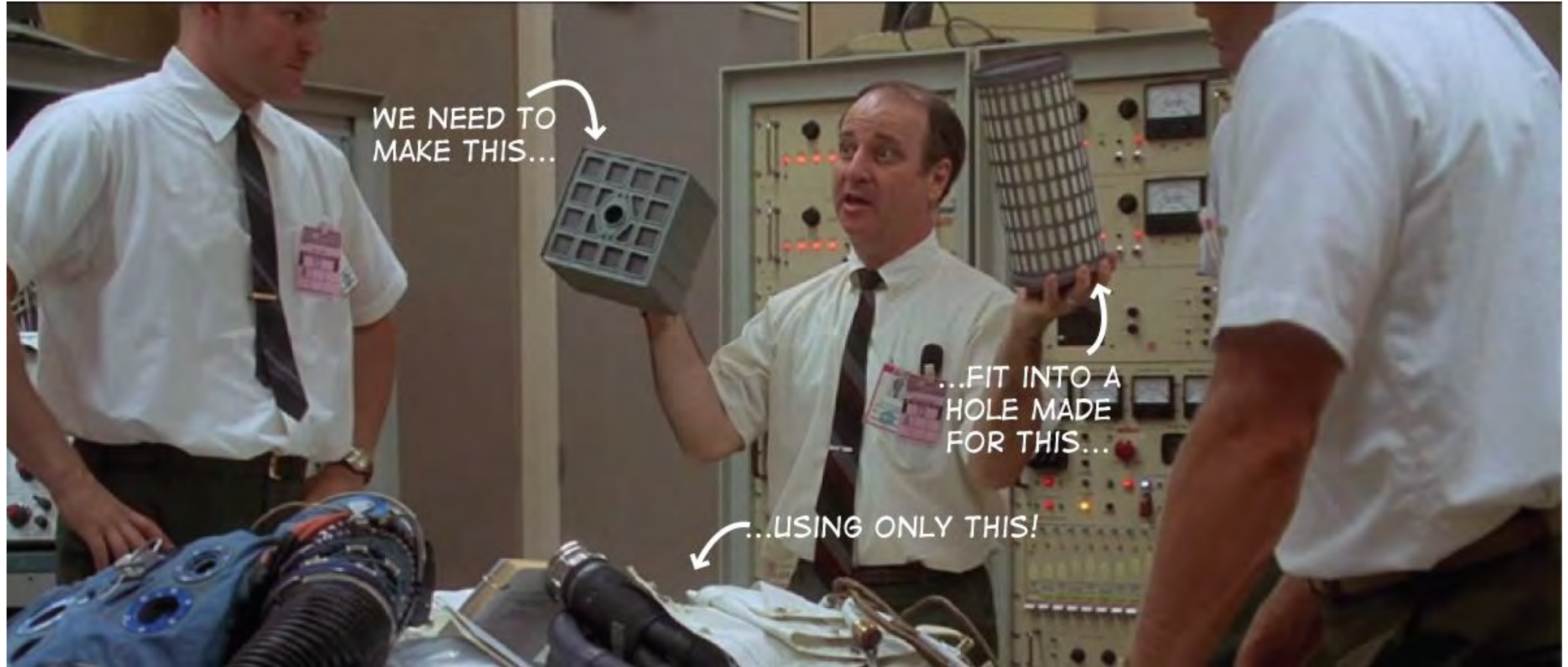
Working with the Administration

- Technical Assistance (TA)
- Implementation and Rulemaking
- Programmatic Questions
- Budget
- Constituent Issues
- Policy Recommendations
- Oversight

Legislative Process in the House

- Drafting the bill
- Congressional collaboration: other offices, leadership, caucuses, bipartisanship, bicameral
- Stakeholder Input: hold hearings, receive input from outside stakeholder groups, constituents, advocates, academic experts, etc.
- Technical Assistance: Solicit TA from the appropriate Administrative Agency
- Score: Request a score from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) or the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT)

Legislative Counsel



Congressional Support Agencies

- Congressional Research Service (CRS)
- Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC)
- Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC)
- Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

We value your input!

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Upcoming Events

May
21

Introduction to HHS and Health Policy Implementation

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

June
9-10

2021 Signature Series: Health and the Economy Summit

A detailed agenda will be available on our website soon.

Coming Soon...

Alliance's Health Policy Handbook

This Handbook features a collection of six chapters, each offering a basic introduction to core health policy topics such as provider rates, coverage, drug pricing, and more.





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FOR HEALTH POLICY

Thank you for attending.