

The Secrets to Public Policy Breakthroughs

Young Worker Health and Safety

Potomac Local Section

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3 Key Takeaways

- AIHA government relations has had a successful 2019!
- The foundation of our success is our members.
- To be successful in 2020, we're focusing on unlocking the hidden power of AIHA members through grassroots government relations.

AIHA's 2019 GR Accomplishments

- 1st ever Public Policy Agenda issued
- Sections have created new positions – Government Relations Points of Contact
- Conducted 2 media trainings
- 2 Days on the Hill (Georgia & Michigan)

AIHA's 2019 GR Accomplishments

- AIHA & PSS Past President Tom Grumbles testified before Congress on TSCA.
- ACTIONS Cmte Sec. Anthony Oliveri testified before Michigan House Ed Cmte on young worker safety & workforce development.
- Continue indirectly supporting 2 State lobbyists (CA & GA)
- Launched first-ever public engagement campaign, focusing on wildfires.

AIHA's 2019 GR Accomplishments

- Legislative success
 - US House passed The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
 - US House passed Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act.
 - US House passed OSHA, MSHA, NIOSH funding bill w/AIHA's recommended levels.

AIHA's 2019 GR Accomplishments

- Legislative success
 - CA enacted AB 1596 (fentanyl contaminated property cleanup)
 - MI House Ed Cmte passed HB 4282 (encouraging HS students to take an OSHA 30-hour course as an option to meet their graduation reqs)

AIHA's 2019 GR Accomplishments

- Agency work
 - Withdrawn: US DOL proposed rule on independent operation of powered patient lifts by 16- and 17-year-old workers. (AIHA expressed concern w/this proposed rule.)
 - AIHA invited to participate in first-ever combined workshop of public & private partners to discuss supply chain issues related to the Strategic Nat'l Stockpile for pandemics.
 - Invited to become of the first members of OSHA's new Ambassador Program.
 - Participated in OSHA's Safe Summer Jobs campaign, Safe + Sound Week, Construction Roundtable, etc.

AIHA's 2019 GR Accomplishments

- Agency work
 - Comments to NIOSH on their RFI on State-based occupational health surveillance.
 - Comments to OSHA on RFI on updates to Table 1 of silica standard.
 - Comments on EPA's Antimicrobial Performance Evaluation Program (APEP): A (Draft) Risk-Based Strategy to Ensure the Effectiveness of Hospital-Level Disinfectants.

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Preparing for the Future: AIHA's New Grassroots Engagement Strategy

Preparing for the Future

- ACTIONS Cmte approved a new grassroots engagement strategy.
 - Keeping it simple & straightforward.
 - Each Section asked to set one GR goal for 2020.
 - Progress is tracked & volunteers are accountable to each other via a live online spreadsheet.
 - Monthly + quarterly calls featuring brief talks from policymakers, the media & GR pros.
 - Involves Sections & 300+ ACTIONS Cmte members.

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

Grassroots Focus: Unlocking the hidden power of AIHA's members to help create public policies that protect workers and their communities.

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

- 1) Determine your goals. Be specific. What problem are you trying to solve? What are you recommending?

AIHA's Public Policy Agenda is a great resource for finding ideas on specific goals.

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

2) Meet with government officials. Anywhere – seriously.

In their office, at a coffee house, a community event, etc.

Do this in-person. It's more time and a bit of a pain compared to calling them, but it's worth it – big time. There's lot of research demonstrating the amazing things that happen when people connect in-person.

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

3) Share your stories and your passion.

It helps to have a bill or specific regulation to talk about, but you don't actually need one. Let the policymakers do some of the work! Bills and regs are really just about people and their problems anyway, so talk to them about what motivates you! (Also, most technical work on bills/regs is done outside of in-person meetings.)

Let your passion and expertise come through! Bonus points if you humanize any technical issues you bring up.

Remember to talk about your meeting on social media! Policymakers love learning that you told people how great your meeting was! (Friendly reminder to be polite.)

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

4) Clear messaging.

Can't emphasize this enough. Remember the saying about rowing in many directions at once and getting nowhere? Same thing here. Be strategic, pick an issue and really hammer it home!

Want to talk about lots of different issues with policymakers? Set up separate meetings and you'll make more progress – and feel less rushed! Have lots of meetings!

Remember to always rehearse before your meetings!

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

5) Dedicated persistence.

While few others may be working on your particular issue, policymakers are hearing from many others about lots of other issues.

Policymakers will pay attention to those who put in the time and effort; who prove their issue needs to be addressed.

Don't be discouraged if you feel ignored – keep at it!

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

6) Analyze and learn.

What goal did you intend to accomplish with your meeting? Do you feel like policymakers are listening to you? Maybe they're not responding to your meeting requests? Why?

Feel free to get scientific! Develop some hypotheses and test them out! You can have a lot of fun with this as part of your goal-setting/strategic planning process.

7 Keys to Success in Government Relations

7) Have fun!

Seriously, government relations is a lot of work and sometimes it takes years to see results. Find ways to enjoy the journey and you'll be much more likely to successfully reach your destination!

Young Worker Health & Safety

AIHA's Public Policy Recommendations:

- Encourage State and local policymakers to require the *Youth @Work – Talking Safety* model curriculum in schools for grades 7 through 12.
- Encourage Members of Congress to introduce and enact legislation providing competitive grants to schools that adopt and implement the *Youth @Work – Talking Safety* model curriculum.

Young Worker Health & Safety

- Encourage Members of Congress and State legislators to introduce and enact legislation providing competitive grants to institutions of higher education or NGOs that provide teacher prep and training that addresses teen workplace health and safety.

Young Worker Health & Safety

- Encourage AIHA members to speak to students using the Safety Matters program.

Young Worker Health & Safety

- Ask State legislators to introduce model legislation that encourages high school students to voluntarily take an OSHA 30-hour course as part of their high school graduation requirements.

**AIHA asks each Section to
establish 1 government
relations goal for 2020**

***What will the Potomac Section
choose?***

Recap

- AIHA government relations has had a successful 2019!
- AIHA members are energized and eager to help.
- Policymakers are willing (and in some cases have committed) to introduce legislation in support of AIHA's recommendations.
- Many gov't & NGOs excited to work w/us.
- Next steps = channeling that potential via the grassroots & celebrating successes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERISM!

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