

Federal Advocacy “101”

Experts in pediatrics,
Advocates for children.

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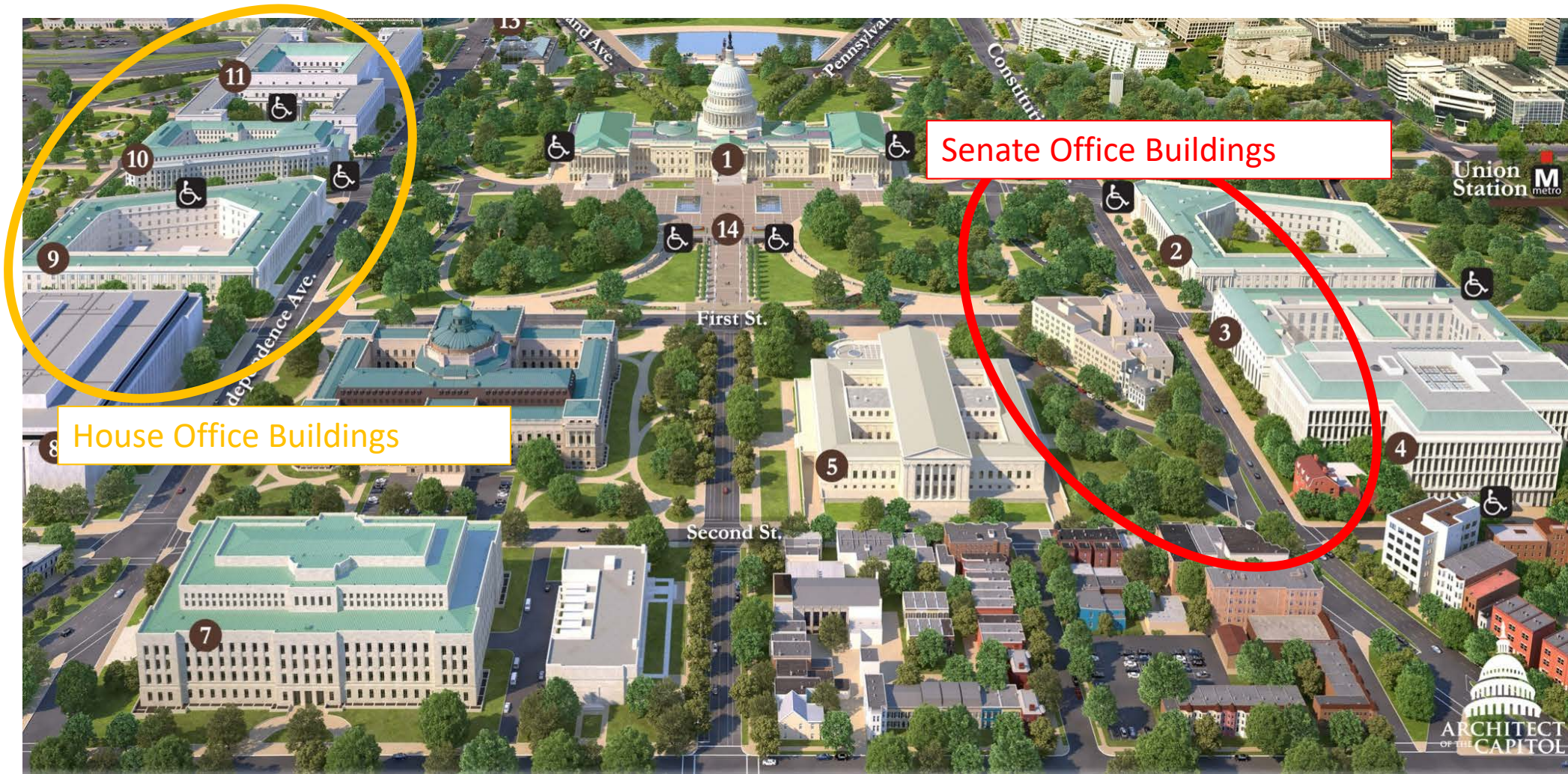
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116th Congress

- Bi-cameral legislature structure
 - Senate
 - Two elected Senators from each state
 - One third of all Senators are elected every two years
 - Six-year term, no term limit
 - Currently: **53 Republicans**, 45 Democrats and 2 Independents
 - House of Representatives
 - The number of Representatives depends on state population
 - All Representatives are elected every two years
 - Two-year term, no term limit
 - Currently: **234 Democrats**, 199 Republicans, 1 Vacancy



The Hill



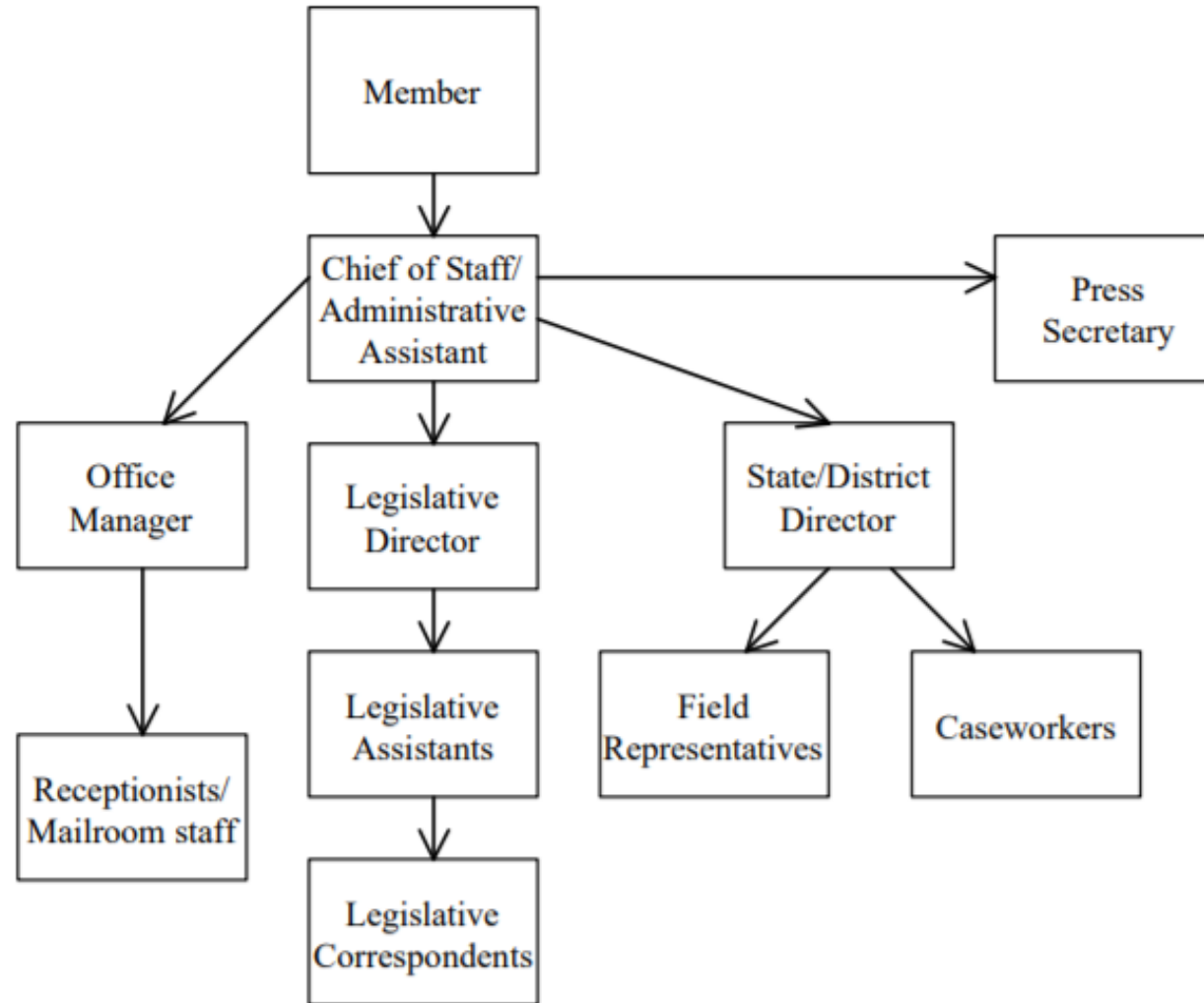
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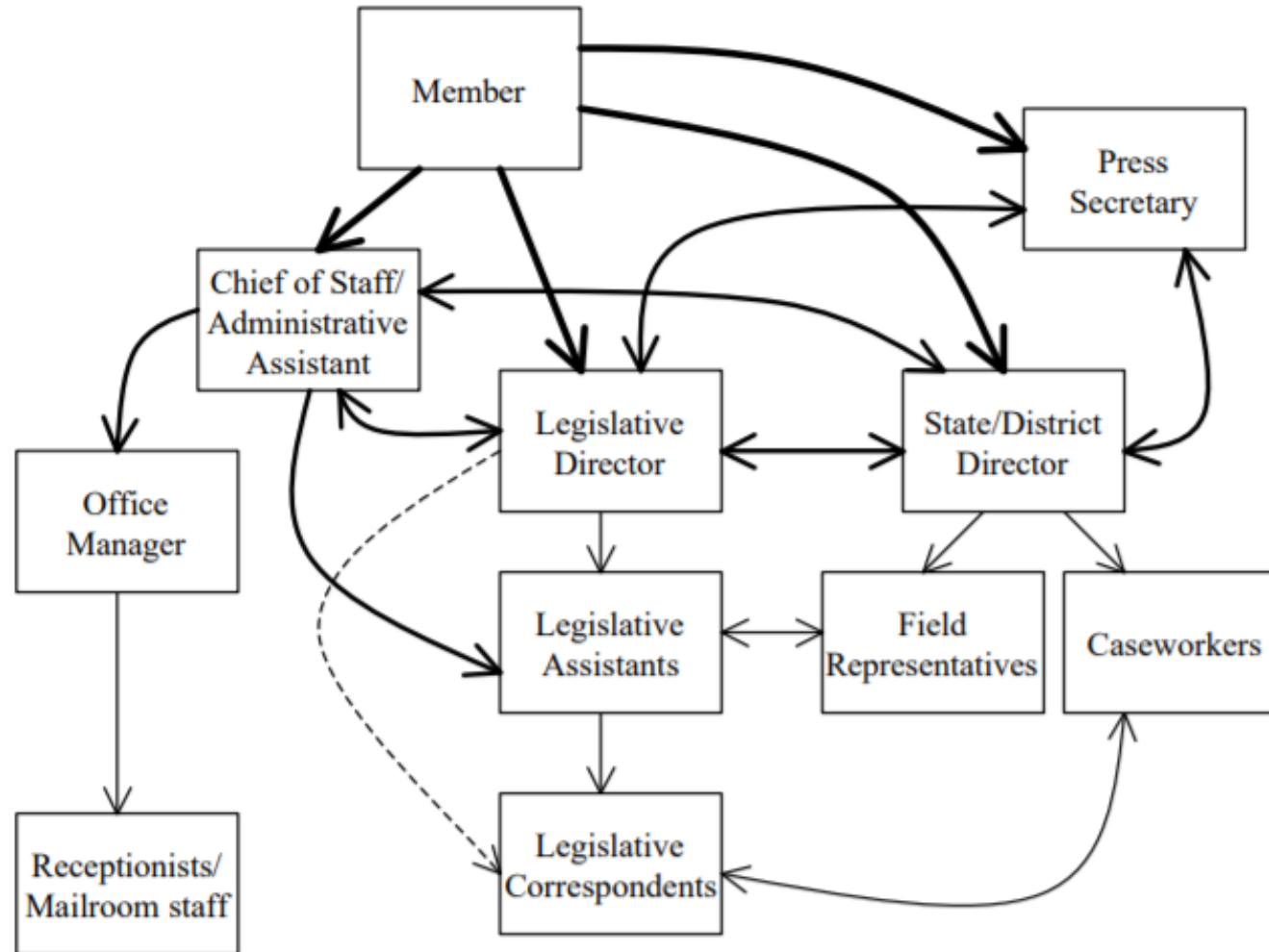


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Textbook Structure of Congressional Office



Reality of Congressional Office



Congressional Committees

Role

- Conduct legislative hearings on bills
- Conduct oversight of the executive branch
- Amend and vote on bills before reaching full elected bodies

Senate

- 20 committees,
- 68 subcommittees
- 4 joint committees

House of Representatives

- 20 committees
- 4 joint committees

Congressional Committees Overseeing Health Care

House

- Appropriations
 - Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee
- Energy and Commerce Committee
- Ways and Means Committee

Senate

- Appropriations
 - Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee
- Finance
- Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

Being an Effective Advocate

- Show your expertise in the delivery of quality health care
- Act: comments logged and prioritized
- Take a stand to be noticed
- Be the “squeaky wheel”
- Be honest about your experiences
- Don’t worry about party affiliation



Advocacy Basics

- Essential to supporting and advancing APRN policies
- Influence of laws, regulations, and other policies
- Decision making with a limited understanding of the people and the system they are affecting
- Well informed, articulate and passionate APRN advocates = value to elected officials

Face to Face Meetings

- Know who you're talking to
 - Look up their bios, find common interests, know what Committees they are on or Chair.
- Know your issue
- Refine your presentation
- Don't arrive too early
- Deliver your message in the first 10 min
- Always have a specific "ask"
- Never go off message

You're Back Home – What Next?

- Send thank you letters after visits – within a week or two
 - Provide any necessary follow-up answers stemming from the meeting
 - Invite them to your practice
 - Be a long-term resource on child health
- **Although electronic communication is best for timely or critical communications, a handwritten note via USPS is a gracious gesture that staffers appreciate.
- Visit home district offices
- Send notes with clippings that may be of interest about district/constituents – keep your name on their radar!

NAPNAP's Health Policy Agenda

The guiding principles of our 2020 health policy agenda are:

- Commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion and equity and rejecting prejudice against race, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender and sexual orientation acknowledging all children and their families are unique and deserve a safe environment where they can build resilience.
- Children should have access to comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, compassionate, culturally responsive sensitive and family-centered health care in-person or via telehealth, including behavioral health services to ensure physical and psychosocial health and well-being.
- We strive to remove barriers that impede access to the care provided by pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in all practice settings.
- Commitment to national and grassroots advocacy by our members is essential and should be supported by providing learning opportunities for members to advance their development as advocates and leaders in pediatric health policy.

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