



# HeartPAC™

ACC POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY®

## ACC HeartPAC Update

### In the States: Advocacy Engagement

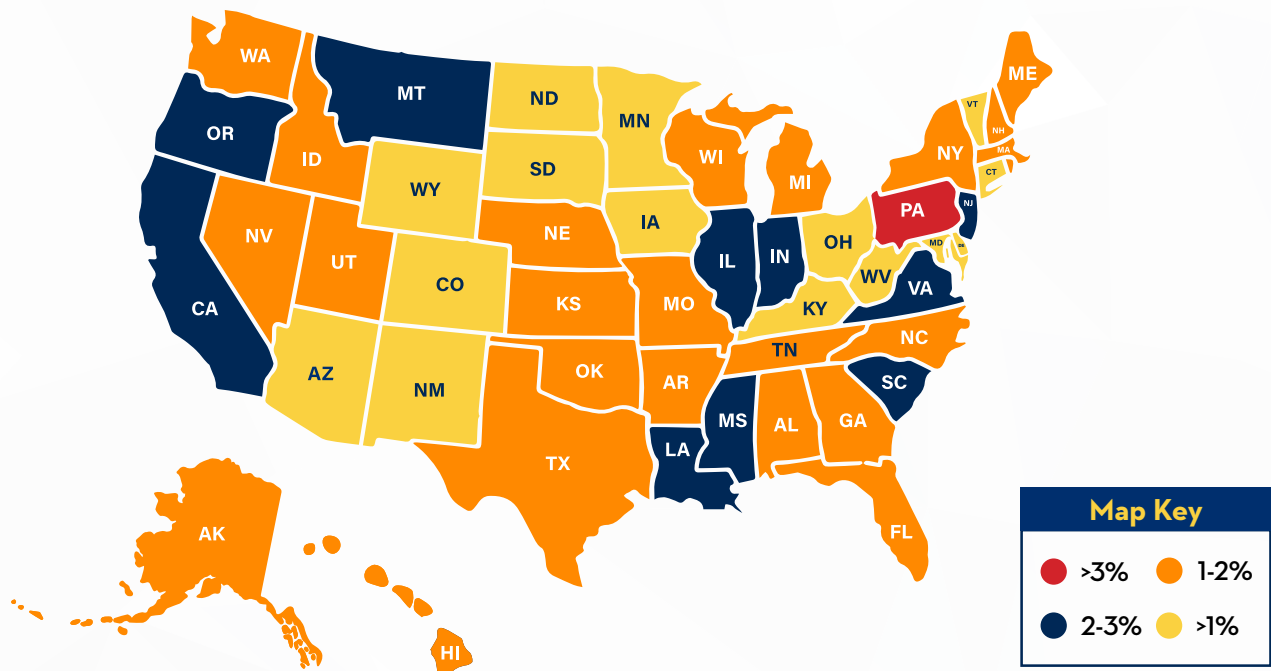
ACC Advocacy plays an active role in monitoring and addressing health care issues at both the state and federal levels of government. Being at the forefront of these issues is essential to our strategy to safeguard the delivery of high-quality cardiovascular care. Member engagement in these efforts is a key component of our success. Lawmakers need to hear directly from constituents to fully understand the lasting impact legislation will have on the health and safety of their communities.

## Federal Advocacy Engagement Across the Nation

Throughout the 118th Congress, one of our key federal advocacy efforts has focused on securing short-term relief to Medicare cuts, while also working toward long-term reform. This Congress has struggled to pass budgets, leaving Medicare payments hanging in the balance. However, ACC's grassroots network has only strengthened throughout this process, because ACC members are using our action alert system in record numbers to urge their lawmakers to take decisive action to provide relief and protect the patients in their communities.

## Grassroots Alert Participation: Medicare Cut Relief & Long-Term Reform

*This map shows ACC Chapters' participation rates across all Medicare-related action alerts.*



**Number of  
Action Alert  
Messages Sent**

**Short-Term:  
2024 Cut Relief**  
**3,413**

*As of March 25*

*Action alert no longer live.*

**Long-Term:  
Inflationary Updates**  
**948**

*As of March 25*

**Take action now!**

**Dear Colleague  
Letters**  
**822**

*As of March 25*

*Action alert no longer live.*

## Best Practices: Get Your Networks Involved

There is strength in numbers. The more engagement we have from ACC members, the stronger our voice is on Capitol Hill. Your ACC Advocacy analyzed our recent alerts to find which Chapters and practices have some of the highest rates of participation. Below we have shared their best practices for getting their colleagues involved in advocacy.

"I have been keeping up a constant dialogue with my partners as to the issues of advocacy, the reason we do it, the ups and the downs. The fact that we truly have no choice but to participate for if not, we can't complain of the outcome. We are a large, independent practice and we feel that we represent much of what was important to American healthcare. Personalized care for our patients and believing in the interplay between quality and cost equals value. We feel strongly that advocating those goals and objectives keeps us close to our mission and vision statements within the practice."

- Mark Victor, MD, FACC

*Cardiology Consultants of Philadelphia*

Pennsylvania and Virginia have some of the highest action alert participation rates among all Chapters. Below is a snapshot of how they keep their members engaged.

### Pennsylvania

- Advocacy leadership interfaces with dedicated lobbyists and interacts with the state medical society.
- The Chapter formed a rapid response team with over 50 members who have pledged to respond to alerts through emails and calls to state lawmakers. While all members receive alerts, this group is committed to ensuring a high number of lawmakers hear from the CV community.

### Virginia

- The Chapter model relies on heavy engagement by Advocacy Chair Robert Bernstein, MD, FACC, with the Medical Society of Virginia. Dr. Bernstein attends in-person and virtual meetings, giving input and helping shape priorities that reflect the CV community. With the assistance of ACC's State Advocacy Staff, we are able to keep track of the most important bits to us and send out alerts as they appear in committee. While the Chapter motivates all members to take action, they also ensure that the Chapter Council is intimately aware of the issues.



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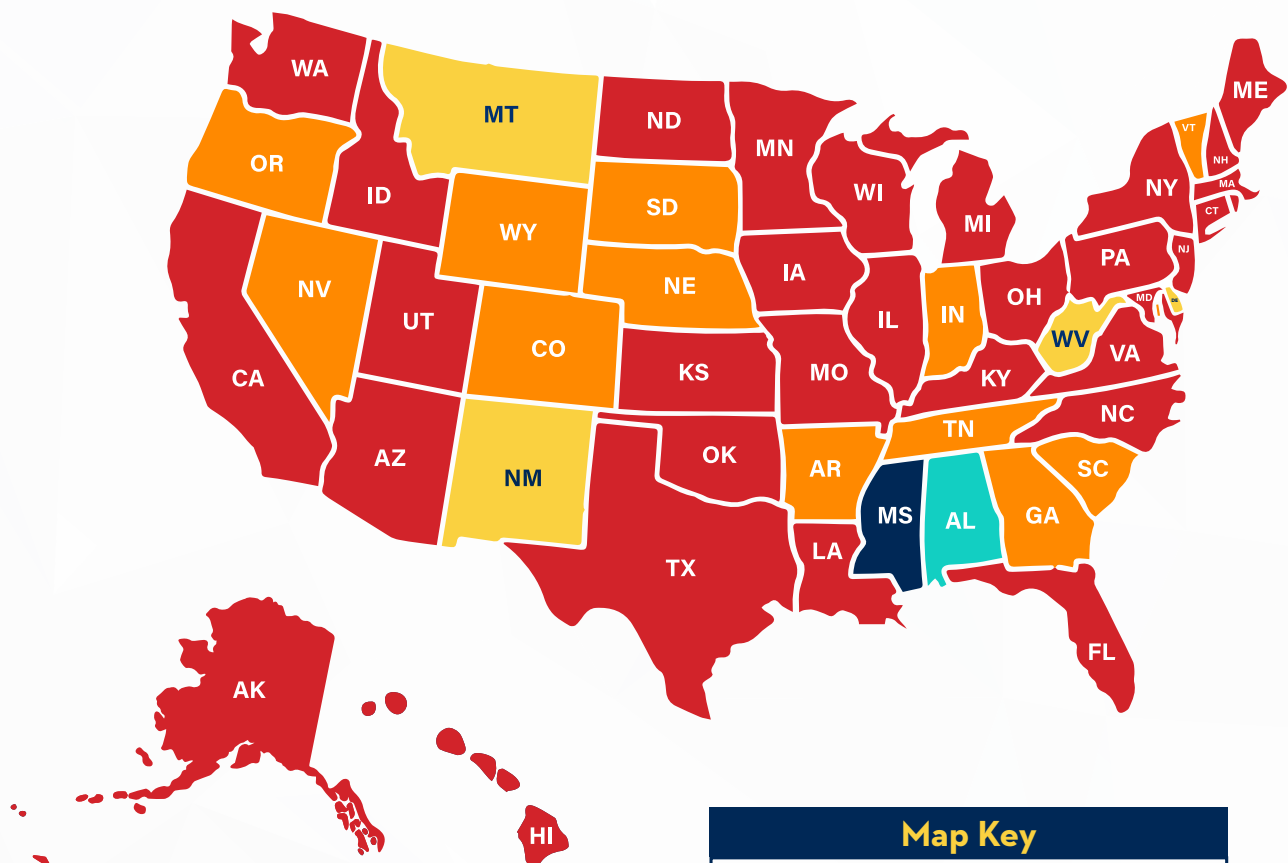
### In the States: Advocacy Engagement

#### HeartPAC – An Important Federal Engagement Tool

HeartPAC is an important part of ACC's advocacy efforts because it allows the College to build and maintain relationships with members of Congress who understand health policy and the impact it can have on the delivery of high-quality care to patients in their communities. A well-funded HeartPAC demonstrates to candidates ACC's commitment to working with lawmakers to ensure communities across the nation have ample access to care.

#### HeartPAC Participation Rates 2023-2024

*This map shows the HeartPAC participation rates in each state for the current election cycle.*



#### Map Key

- 0.5-2%
- 2-4%
- 4-6%
- 6-8%
- >8%



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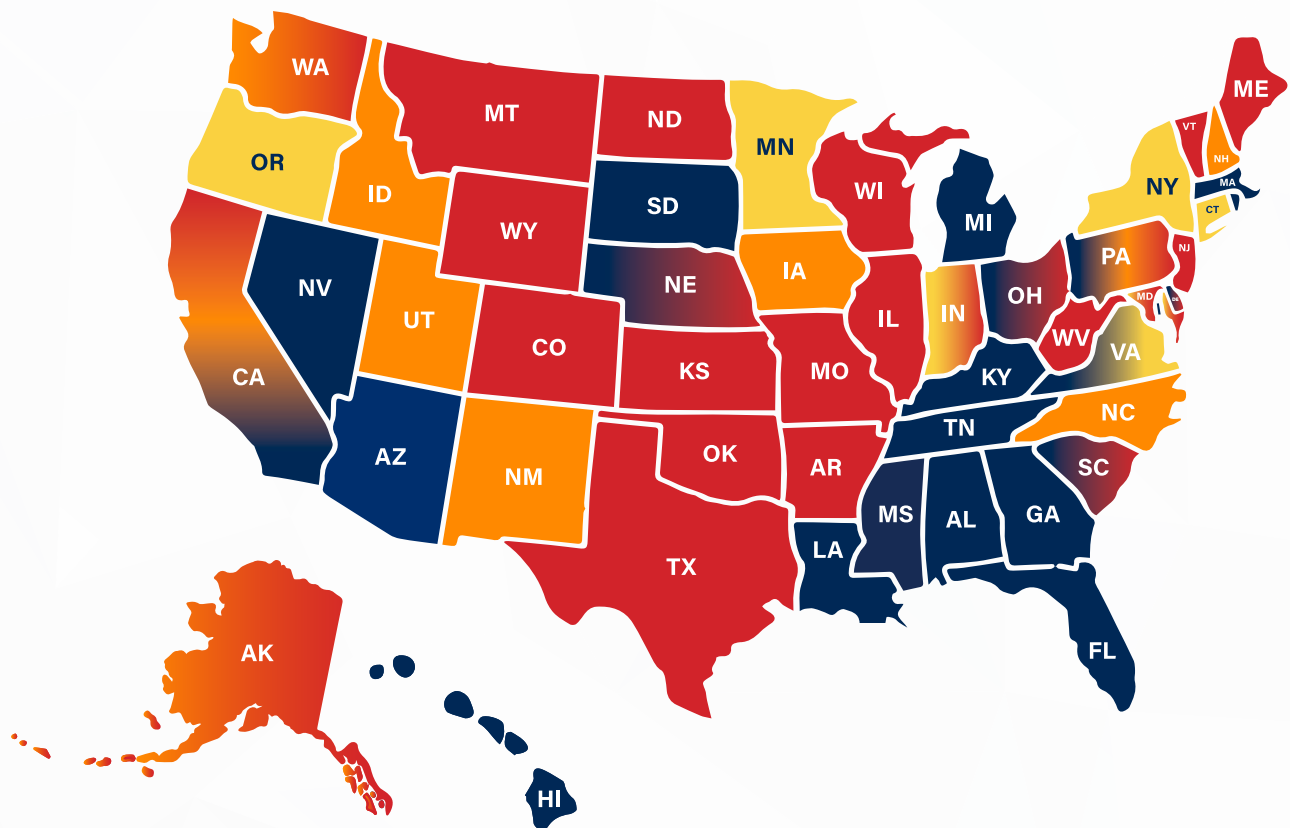
### In the States: Advocacy Engagement

## State Advocacy Engagement Across the Nation

Maintaining a presence in state capitals and developing relationships with lawmakers is critical to advocacy success. When members take time to advocate on behalf of their profession and patients, lawmakers are often responsive and come to view them as expert constituents they can turn to for help understanding complex health care issues. ACC Advocacy can help Chapters increase member engagement through various mechanisms, including ACC's action alert system. Below is a snapshot of what a few chapters, of varying membership sizes, have done to keep their members informed, engaged, and connected to policymakers. The 2024 state legislative sessions are nearing their halfway point.

### Trending Issues 2023-2024

*This map shows which ACC priority issue(s) Chapters have worked to advance at the state level.*



#### Map Key

- |                                                        |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> Prior Authorization | <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Medicaid     |
| <span style="color: darkblue;">●</span> AED Access     | <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Non-Competes |

One crucial tool Chapters can use to increase engagement in advocacy is by hosting a state lobby day and meeting with your lawmakers face-to-face. Below is a snapshot of ACC Chapters who held state lobby days in 2023 and 2024.

### California

ACC's California Chapter met in Sacramento in April 2023 to advocate for several initiatives to improve heart health in the state. CA-ACC members gathered to discuss pending health legislation on prior authorization, automated external defibrillator (AED) training for high school physical education credits, self-measured blood pressure coverage for Medicaid, health care worker compensation, and standards for compliance with the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments.



### Indiana



ACC's Indiana Chapter held annual legislative days in March 2023 and February 2024. In 2023, IN-ACC members engaged with state legislators on issues affecting cardiology and patients. Specifically, the Chapter strongly advocated for legislation banning physician non-compete agreements. Building off 2023, in 2024 IN-ACC members gathered as part of the Indiana Department of Health's Public Health Day. They discussed the need for prior authorization reform and urged support for funding mobile integrated health care in underserved communities.

### Ohio

ACC's Ohio Chapter held its annual legislative day in Columbus in May 2023. Over 20 OH-ACC members participated in conversations with state lawmakers and staff where they advocated for AEDs in schools, prior authorization gold carding, and tobacco use prevention legislation. The Chapter looks forward to its upcoming 2024 state lobby day in May.





### Pennsylvania

ACC's Pennsylvania Chapter united with partners from the Smart Heart Sports Coalition in Harrisburg in September 2023. PA-ACC members met with state lawmakers to advocate for AEDs at school-hosted athletic games and practices, AED and CPR training for coaches, and the adoption of cardiac emergency response plans. Additionally, Neerav Girish Sheth, MD, FACC, represented the Chapter by speaking at a press conference aimed at educating Pennsylvania lawmakers on the issue's importance.



### South Carolina



ACC's South Carolina Chapter convened in Columbia in February 2024 for its state lobby day. SC-ACC members engaged with over 10 state lawmakers and key health care leaders advocating for prior authorization reform and a Smart Heart Sports Coalition bill focused on access to AEDs and sudden cardiac arrest response for student athletes. The state lobby day provided a crucial opportunity for SC-ACC members to build relationships with policymakers and position the Chapter as the voice of cardiology in South Carolina.

### Tennessee

ACC's Tennessee Chapter met in Nashville in March 2024 to rally support for sudden cardiac arrest legislation. Joined alongside members of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition, TN-ACC members engaged with over a dozen state lawmakers and had a photo opportunity with Tennessee Governor Bill Lee. In addition to meeting with state legislators, Samuel O. Jones, IV, MD, MPH, FACC, spoke at a press conference urging the Tennessee General Assembly to save lives by expanding AED access and requiring cardiac emergency response plans in schools.



ACC's State Government Affairs team can guide you through the legislative process, connect you with a broad range of stakeholders and position you to pitch policymakers and their staff. In addition to providing support for specific legislation, ACC State Government Affairs can help chapters build their advocacy programs by incorporating strategies geared toward long-term success. Please contact Michael Lawrence ([mlawrence@acc.org](mailto:mlawrence@acc.org)) for more information.



Looking to get more involved in ACC Advocacy? Take part in an ACC action alert! Visit [ACC.org/Advocacy](https://acc.org/Advocacy) to view live alerts or text **ACC** to 50457 to start receiving alerts directly on your mobile device.