

Advocacy 101: Advocating for your Reproductive Health and Cardio-Obstetrics Patients

Erin Bailey

ACC State Government Affairs Manager



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Agenda

- Overview of ACC Advocacy Teams
 - Current Federal Legislation
 - Current State Legislation
- How to Get Involved
- Legislative Conference



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ACC Advocacy Staff Teams

- Congressional Affairs
- Federal Regulatory Affairs
- State Government Affairs
- Payer and Care Delivery Policy



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Congressional Affairs

Key Activities

- Shape congressional activity through ongoing contact with members of Congress and their staff
- Review relevant legislation and solicit feedback and guidance from Health Affairs Committee and other relevant ACC stakeholder groups
- Interface with medical societies and other external allies to advance shared priorities



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Current ACC-Endorsed Federal Legislation

- ***Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act*** (H.R. 1909)
- ***Connected MOM Act*** (S. 141)
- ***Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act*** (H.R. 1254/S. 380)



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Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1909)

Goal: Strengthen and expand federal support for Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)

- MMRCs identify maternal deaths, analyze contributing factors, and recommend policy changes

What does this bill do?

- Enhances MMRC funding and reach



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Connected MOM Act (S. 141)

Goal: Improve access to remote monitoring for pregnant and postpartum women

- Remote monitoring tools (e.g., for **blood pressure, glucose, pulse**) can detect early complications.

What does this bill do?

- Directs CMS to issue coverage guidance for these tools.
- Requires updates to state Medicaid telehealth toolkits.



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Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act (S. 380/H.R. 1254)

Goal: Strengthen emergency obstetric care capacity in rural hospitals

- Over half of U.S. counties are maternity care deserts

What does this bill do?

- Enhances rural hospital readiness through training for obstetric emergencies
- Provides grants for equipment
- Creates teleconsultation pilot programs
- Directs HHS to study regional care coordination models



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State Affairs

Key Activities

- Work with all 50 ACC State Chapters + DC to position ACC members as the voice of the cardiovascular community within State Legislatures, Agencies and Stakeholder Groups
- Advise ACC State Chapters in setting policy priorities and participating in the state legislative and regulatory processes



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Current Key State Issues

- Medicaid Coverage Postpartum
 - **Goal:** Get states to expand Medicaid coverage postpartum to 1 year. All states, but two (AR & WI), have done this
- SMBP Coverage
 - **Goal:** Require Medicaid and private insurance coverage of self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) cuffs, home monitors, training, data transmission, and co-interventions
- MMRC Representation
 - **Goal:** Get a cardiologist on every Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)



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How Do We Get Lawmakers to Listen?

How Can You Get Involved in Advocacy at ACC?

- **Grassroots Action/Communication**

- Action Alerts
- Social Media
- Press/Op-Ed

- **Use Institutional Footprint**

- Academic Connections
- Professional Organizations

- **Staying in Touch & Taking Action**

- In-person meetings
- Virtual meetings
- Informal social meetings
- Hosting a Lobby Day
- Getting involved in the legislative process
- Legislator Practice Visit Program
- Contributing to HeartPAC
- Attending Legislative Conference



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Legislator Practice Visit Program

- Provides lawmakers the opportunity to witness first-hand how the CV care team provides patient care
- Visits can be hosted in a variety of settings, including academic centers, hospitals, clinics, and private practices
- Visits can be scheduled for both federal and state lawmakers
- **To get started, contact**
 - **Anjana Parashar (aparashar@acc.org) for visits with federal lawmakers or**
 - **Erin Bailey (ebailey@acc.org) for visits with state lawmakers**



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HeartPAC

ACC's HeartPAC is the Cardiology Party



- ✓ Investing in congressional champions
- ✓ Acting on cardiology issues
- ✓ Supporting the future of cardiovascular care

HeartPAC is non-partisan, member-led and member-driven. Through the support of clinicians like you, the Cardiology Party has worked to represent your professional interests on Capitol Hill for over 20 years.

Learn more at HeartPAC.org

Contribute to HeartPAC Today!

Now is the time to get involved, and becoming a HeartPAC member is a great place to start.

Become a member of HeartPAC **today** by making your contribution online at HeartPAC.org or text 'HeartPAC' to 41444.



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

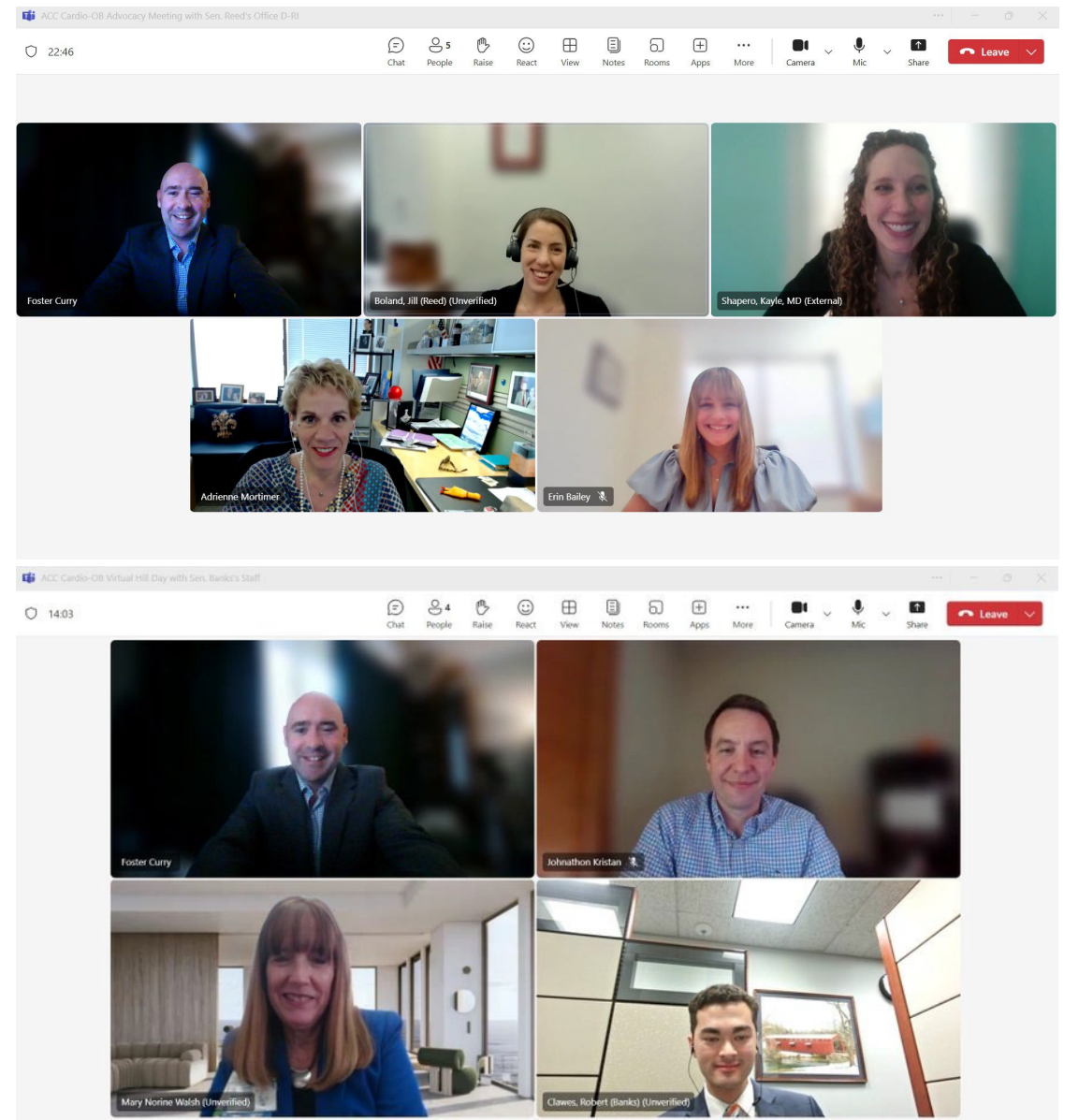
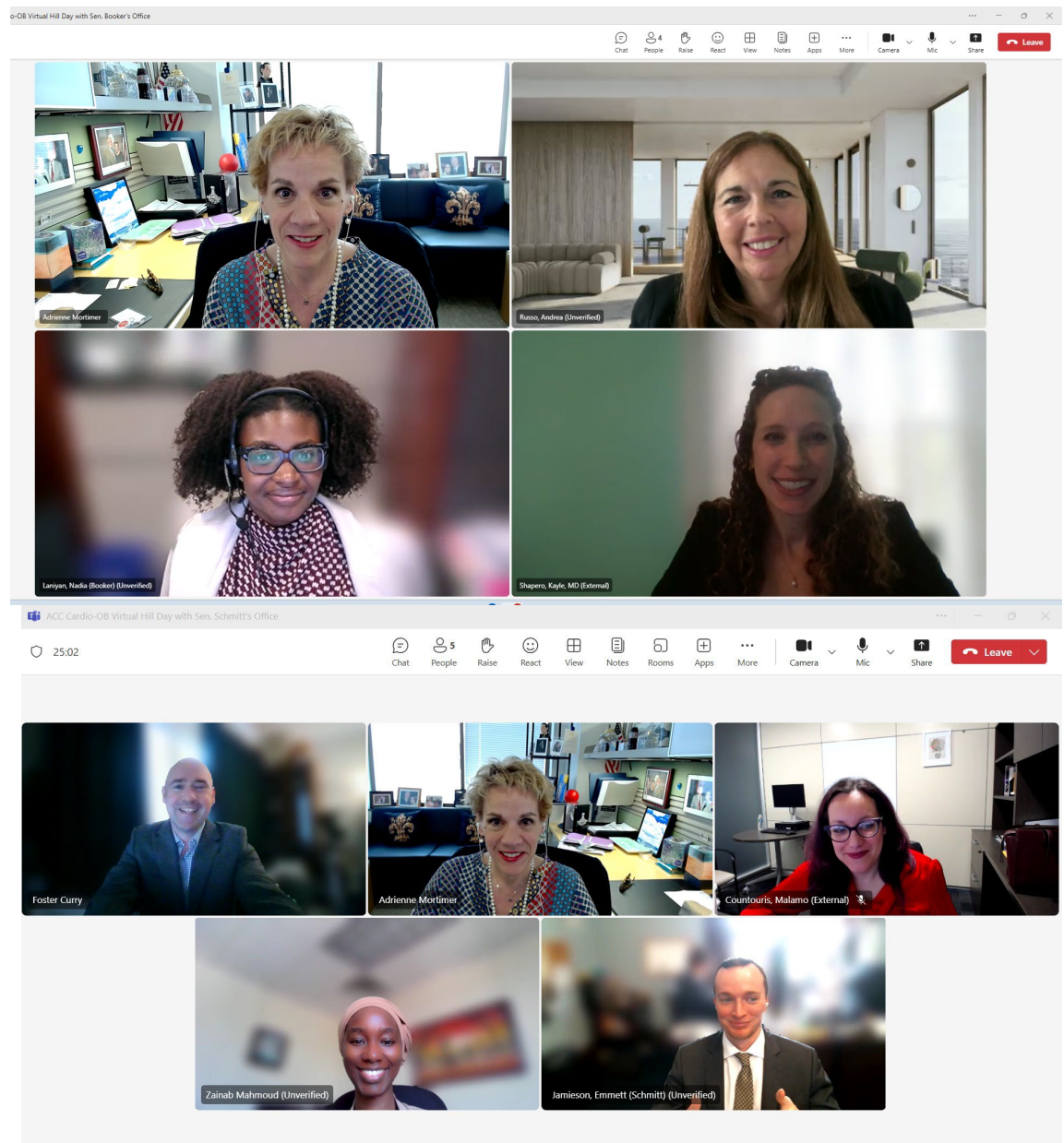


Visit
[ACC.org/LegislativeConference](https://acc.org/LegislativeConference) to view talking points, agenda and resources needed for your Hill Day!

Don't forget to RSVP for the **HeartPAC Event**, featuring Anna Palmer & Jake Sherman, co-founders of Punchbowl News, on **Sunday, Oct 5, 5:30-7:30 PM.**

Contact aparashar@acc.org to get your tickets!

Advocacy in Action: RHCOB Virtual Hill Day





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