



ASCCP Advocacy and Lobbying Policy

Introduction

ASCCP may on occasion either consider developing and/or be asked to sign on to statements, calls for action, and letters to officials for a wide variety of public and medical community interests. With a mission to improve lives through the prevention and treatment of anogenital and HPV-related diseases, the society finds this to be consistent with our mission for a variety of topics.

Definitions

- **Advocacy** – For ASCCP’s purposes, separating Advocacy and Lobbying, advocacy incorporates communication about ASCCP’s mission, advances the issues ASCCP cares about, and helps bring about lasting change for the community and people ASCCP serves without comment on legislation and administrative policy rules.
- **Lobbying** – As a 501c3, ASCCP is required to keep lobbying activities to a minimum. The IRS is vague on what this means, so any lobbying must be handled carefully. Per the IRS, lobbying is defined as: influencing legislation by way of contacting, or urging the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Characteristics of Statements Eligible for Review

ASCCP will only participate in efforts related to ASCCP’s mission. To this end, the criteria required for ASCCP to make a statement and/or sign-on to a statement are:

Advocacy

- Issues specifically involving anogenital and/or HPV-related diseases
- Healthcare inequality which may include, but is not limited to discrimination by way of race, sexual orientation, gender, or socio-economic status.
- Evidence-based medical practice (for specific guideline endorsement, see the ASCCP Guideline Review Policy)

Lobbying

ASCCP does not currently participate in any lobbying activities. For topics that meet the Advocacy criteria outlined above, but also comment on legislation and administrative policy rules, ASCCP will need to:

1. Develop a system to track and report the percentage of staff time, volunteer time, and any monies spent on such.
2. Report the percentages to both membership and industry partners (note, this will affect member dues, fundraising, and unrestricted grants).
3. Register with the state and/or local governments as required.



ASCCP Advocacy/Lobbying Process

When a statement/letter/topic is identified or submitted for consideration, the ASCCP Executive Committee determines if the guideline is timely and clinically relevant to the ASCCP membership in the context of overall guideline development at ASCCP. If the guideline is of interest and sufficient resources are available:

- The staff determines if the topic falls under advocacy or lobbying.
- The President and Incoming President discuss the request/topic and decides if they want to proceed with next steps.
- For topics of Advocacy, the request is put to vote by the Executive Committee.
- For topics of Lobbying, the Executive Committee will:
 - Consider if the topic can be transitioned into an Advocacy Statement instead
 - Consider if the topic is of such extreme importance that ASCCP should engage
 - Staff will need to track time and monies spent, including the time deliberating to this point
 - Staff will need to review local, state, and federal laws regarding registration for lobbying (as these may change, the society will need to review current laws at the time of the request)
 - ASCCP may need to seek legal counsel, staff will advise
 - Due to the infrastructure involved in lobbying, ASCCP will generally not engage in any lobbying activities that need a quick turnaround time.
- As deemed appropriate, the Executive Committee may bring the motion forward to the entire Board of Directors.

Conclusion

By communicating the criteria and method that ASCCP uses to assess whether it should participate in issues pertaining to advocacy and lobbying, the goal is to clarify and streamline the process and to engage with other organizations in a transparent manner. Advocacy and lobbying efforts are intended to fulfill the mission of the ASCCP and collaborate with other organizations.

Please contact info@ASCCP.org for further information on the endorsement process.

This policy has been reviewed, approved and adopted by the Board of Directors on November 20, 2020.