



Are you familiar with the term “Congressional Caucus”? You may have heard it before, but you might not have a clear idea of the role such a group plays in passing legislation. If you were to look up the word “caucus”, you would find that it simply means “to meet together”. A **Congressional Caucus** refers to a group of Congressional representatives and/or senators who meet to discuss legislative- and policy-related issues that are mutually interesting to those in the group, or caucus.

What is the COPD Caucus?

- The **COPD Caucus** is a group of representatives and senators from both sides of the aisle (meaning they are both Democrats and Republicans, i.e., bipartisan) who are dedicated to improving COPD policy in the United States. As a member of the COPD Caucus, your elected officials are committed to representing your voice in Congress.
- The work of the COPD Caucus has led to important progress for the COPD community, including the release of the **COPD National Action Plan (CNAP)** in May 2017 and important policy changes such as relaxing restrictions on airline travel with oxygen. The COPD Caucus is committed to realizing the goals of the CNAP, but we need your help to encourage more members of Congress to join.
- At the COPD Foundation, we believe that the care and treatment available for COPD should not depend on where you live. We believe there should be a national standard of care that will help ease the challenges of living with COPD. The goals of the CNAP are a framework to do just that. If you haven’t had a chance to explore the CNAP, [here is a link](#) for your convenience. The five goals of the CNAP are listed on page nine of the PDF.
- With the passing of Representative John Lewis (D-GA), the COPD community lost a true champion. We need other representatives to pick up the torch and carry it. We must not let the flame go out! If your state is not represented in the COPD Caucus, one of our policy priorities will be for you to ask your officials to join the Caucus – more to come on that soon!

LEARN MORE

1. Check out the US COPD Coalition [website](#). This site has information about the COPD Caucus and the representatives who are part of that group.
 - a. Is your state represented on this list?
 - b. Why is it important for your state to be represented in the COPD Caucus?
2. What do you know about the impact of COPD in your state? The COPD Foundation has a wonderful resource to help you explore data specific to your state and compare your state’s information to other states, too.
 - a. Take a few minutes and investigate your state’s “report card” [here](#).