



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During May 2022, 31 volunteer COPD Foundation patient and caregiver community members representing 21 states participated in IMPACT Lung Health 2022, a virtual advocacy event designed to encourage the United States Congress to support critical policies to improve the lives of people living with COPD, ultimately leading to a cure.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, no travel to Washington, D.C., was required. Instead, the volunteer advocates met virtually with elected officials and their staff from the House of Representatives and Senate, resulting in close to 70 virtual meetings. In most cases, individual participants were grouped depending on the geography and availability of elected officials.

The full IMPACT 2022 program focused on building participants' advocacy, storytelling, relationship-building skills, and knowledge about COPDF's critical policy priorities for the COPD community. This was achieved through a series of advocacy training webinars culminating in the IMPACT Lung Health 2022 virtual Congressional meetings on May 10, 2022.

In advance of the virtual meetings, a document outlining COPDF's critical policy priorities and facts about COPD was sent to all members of Congress and their staff with whom advocates had scheduled meetings.

IMPACT 2022 participants focused on five critical policy priorities and asked their elected officials to:

1. Include an additional \$100M for lung health research through NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI);
2. Extend and make permanent Medicare coverage for virtual pulmonary rehabilitation and authorize non-physician clinicians to oversee pulmonary rehabilitation under Medicare beginning in 2022 by co-sponsoring H.R. 1956/S. 1986;
3. Provide Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) with \$6M for the Chronic Disease Education & Awareness Program;
4. Encourage Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to permanently remove liquid oxygen from Medicare competitive bidding, update reimbursement levels, and streamline clinician review of medical necessity; and
5. Join the Congressional COPD Caucus to support the COPD community and help advance policies that benefit people living with this condition.

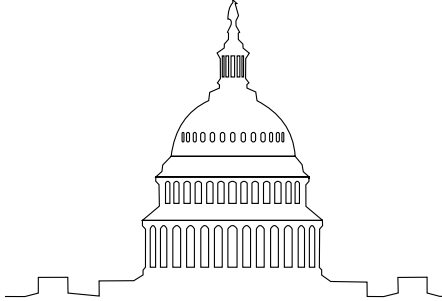
“ Being involved with how the appropriation bills are handled and the process has opened my interests to delve further into how we all can make a difference. ”
- *Laurene (Lauri) Bianchi, COPD Foundation Captain, Illinois IMPACT Advocate*

Initial feedback indicated participants felt their virtual meetings went well overall, their interactions were positive, and their voices were heard. Interest expressed by elected officials and their staff included potentially joining the COPD Caucus, wanting to learn more about COPD in general, efforts specific to their state, and sharing their connections to individuals impacted by COPD. Because advocacy is such an urgent and sustained process, ongoing relationship-building, identifying opportunities for connecting, and continued dialogue with elected officials and their staff is critical.

After the program's conclusion, participants were asked to complete a feedback survey from the IMPACT 2022 planning team. Of note:

100%
had a
BETTER UNDERSTANDING

of what the
COPD FOUNDATION
does to help the
COPD community

95%
would participate in future

“HILL VISITS”
with their elected officials

Because of
IMPACT 2022 100%

are
Excited to participate in more
future activities with the

 **COPD FOUNDATION®**

Participants were also asked to describe what advocacy means to them in three words, resulting in the following:



IMPACT 2022 demonstrated that one does not have to travel to Washington, D.C., to be an effective advocate. Because of the virtual nature of this year's program, many advocates could participate who otherwise would not have been able to do so due to physical or financial limitations. While face-to-face meetings are preferred, IMPACT 2022, 2021 and 2020 all highlighted that meeting with elected officials virtually instead of in person has merit and should continue to be considered a valuable means to effect change for the COPD community.

“
The best part about IMPACT 2022 was telling my story as a person with COPD as a World Trade Center Survivor.
– Doris Bodine, New York IMPACT Advocate
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We are thankful to all who participated in and supported this very important virtual event.
THANK YOU for joining us for IMPACT 2022!

The COPD Foundation would like to thank our corporate partners for providing the funding to deliver this important program.

