

# IMPACT

## Lung Health 2025 Executive Summary



# IMPACT LUNG HEALTH

## 2025

On March 5, 2025, 76 advocates representing the COPD Foundation and its patient, caregiver, and health care community traveled to Washington, D.C. for IMPACT Lung Health 2025. This yearly advocacy campaign mobilizes stakeholders to urge the United States Congress to act on critical legislation to improve the lives of those affected by chronic lung disease.



## OUR PURPOSE

For a community afflicted with stigma and misunderstanding, advocacy is critical to further progress in enhancing care and policies for lung health. It encourages policy change through legislation that can improve resource availability and research funding for lung health. Advocates of the COPD Foundation play a vital role in policy engagement by using their authentic voice and lived expertise to call upon their policy makers as their constituents to urge action with their passion for lung health. Advocacy raises awareness and reduces negative stigma surrounding issues relating to lung health. Most importantly, it gives patients, caretakers, and the lung health community an opportunity to use their voice to spark change and lead to better patient-centric care.





## THIS YEAR'S IMPACT

IMPACT Lung Health 2025 is the COPD Foundation's seventh annual legislative advocacy campaign and the second legislative advocacy campaign to take place in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic. IMPACT 2025 consisted of 105 meetings with representatives, marking it as the largest in-person meeting of any IMPACT event. Our advocates represented 26 states, 53 unique House districts, and 52 unique Senate districts on Capitol Hill.



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*“This was an amazing experience. It was so well organized and implemented efficiently. The COPD Foundation was energetic and supportive and engaging with the advocates!”*

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*“[The best part of IMPACT 2025 was] feeling I could help make a difference for others with COPD that couldn't be there.”*

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## ADVOCATE ACTIVITIES

The IMPACT Lung Health 2025 program was a multi-day event in which our advocates received training to build upon their advocacy skills, develop their personal stories, and promote the Foundation's policy priorities. Advocates were encouraged to share their authentic voice and emphasize their unique lived experiences and feelings as they relate to the crucial policies that support the COPD Foundation advocacy agenda.

The program brought together our advocates on Capitol Hill to urge their elected officials to support crucial policies to raise the standard of care for those living with chronic lung conditions while also strengthening their relationships with legislators, staff, and each other. Advocates provided their legislative offices with a folder complete with facts about chronic lung disease, details about the COPD Foundation policy priorities for 2025, and tailored state-by-state prevalence statistics.

After the meetings, advocates followed up with their elected officials and staff to thank them for their time, reshare the policy priorities, and reinforce their relationship as constituents and lung health champions. Fostering these sustained communications with legislators and legislative staff on policy priorities solidifies the constituent relationship and urges legislators to act on these policies.

# 100%

Agreed that they would

**PARTICIPATE**  
in future **IMPACT**



Lung Health  
Legislative  
Advocacy events





## POLICY PRIORITIES & PARTNERSHIPS

The selected IMPACT Lung Health 2025 priorities are influenced by the COPD Foundation's fundamental policy priorities and approved by the Advocacy and Public Policy Committee, which consists of individuals who provide expertise and insight into lung health-related public policy, including patients, caregivers, scientists, clinicians, and policy experts. These priorities include access to effective, affordable, and equitable pulmonary rehabilitation as well as safe, effective, and affordable oxygen therapy.

The COPD Foundation has partnered with professional organizations — such as the American Association for Respiratory Care and the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation — to inform the organization's work with furthering legislation regarding pulmonary rehabilitation. The COPD Foundation is also an active member of a coalition made up of dozens of patient and health care-centric organizations collaborating on the implementation of supplemental oxygen access information.

As a result of a year of collaborative cross-cutting work, IMPACT 2025 advocates focused on the following three (3) critical policy priorities and urged their elected officials to:

**Co-sponsor H.R.783/S.248 to Enact Permanent Medicare Coverage for Virtual Pulmonary Rehabilitation.**

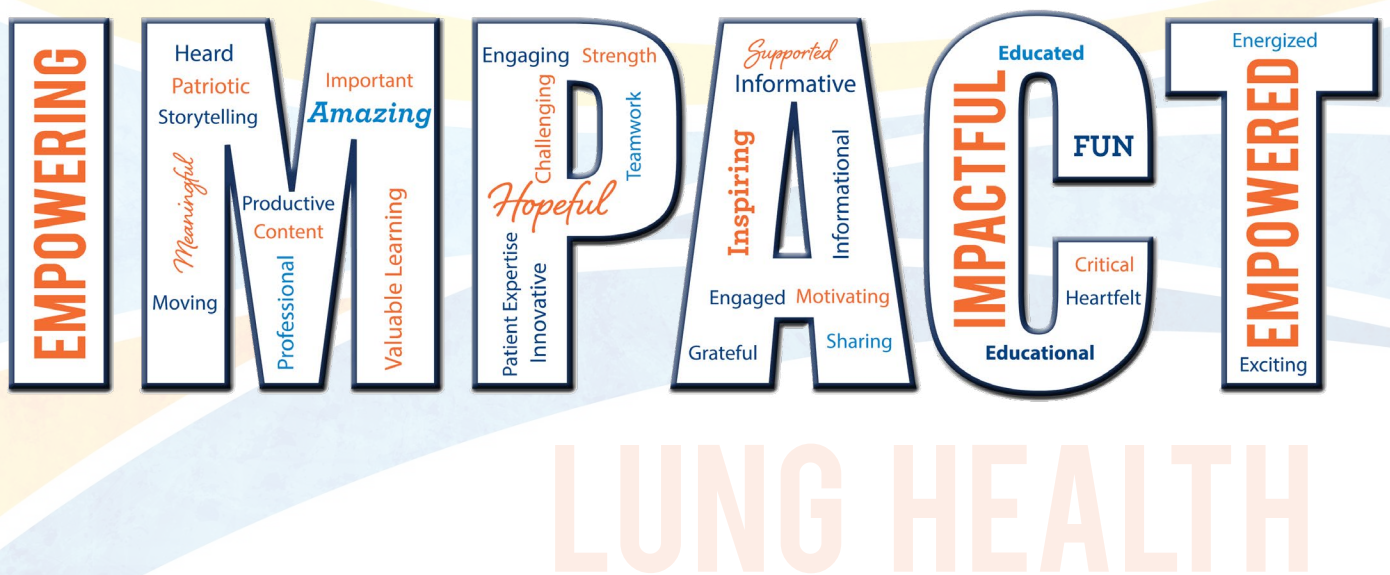
**Co-sponsor H.R.2902/S.1406 to enact the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act, so Medicare Patients have Access to Essential Oxygen Therapy.**

**Protect FY26 NIH Funding and Promote Innovative COPD Treatments by Prioritizing Early Disease Research at NHLBI and Patient-Focused Outcome Measures at FDA through Appropriations Report Provisions.**



## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Advocates remarked that they spoke with confidence on the “what” and “why” of the policy priorities. They enjoyed meeting with their elected officials, sharing their personal stories with legislative staff, and felt as though their voices were truly heard during their meetings on Capitol Hill. The elected officials and their staff expressed interest in the details of the Foundation’s FY 2026 Appropriations request, the history and background of the access issues of supplemental oxygen users, and identifying protentional solutions for access to virtual pulmonary rehabilitation. They also shared a strong desire to further their understanding of COPD, bronchiectasis, and NTM lung disease.





## CONTINUED PROGRESS

Since IMPACT Lung Health 2025, progress continues on all three of the COPD Foundation's policy priorities. The SOAR Act has been reintroduced as H.R.2902/S.1406 and has gained over 20 cosponsors to date. The priority virtual pulmonary rehabilitation bill has gained 5 cosponsors since IMPACT 2025. As a result of the COPD Foundation's advocacy efforts, over 170 calls to action have been sent directly to legislative offices to urge support for our IMPACT 2025 policy priorities. Additionally, over 100 individual requests for the COPD Foundation's FY 2026 Appropriations priority have been submitted to legislative offices. The requested report language for the FY26 Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act has been included in both the House of Representatives' and the Senate's initial drafts of the budget report. In the reports, the committees explicitly mention the COPD Foundation and encourage the FDA to collaborate with stakeholders like the Foundation.

# 100%

Agree that they felt

PREPARED



for the

# IMPACT

Lung Health 2025  
legislative meetings



# 100%

Agree that because of

# IMPACT

Lung Health 2025

they are **EXCITED**  
to participate in  
more activities  
with the COPD  
Foundation



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*“[The best part of IMPACT 2025 was]  
deeply connecting to the mission.”*

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

IMPACT Lung Health 2025 was a resounding success, exemplified by the knowledge, relationships, and skills that advocates gained during their time in Washington, D.C. Advocates worked together to uplift their voices and share their stories on behalf of those affected by lung disease throughout the country. This year's event proved that lung health champions can come from anywhere, and the most important factors in advocacy are teamwork and passion.

We are thankful to everyone who supported us and shared their time with us in Washington, D.C. for this very important event. THANK YOU for joining us for IMPACT 2025!

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

