

Congressional Advocacy and Key Housing Committees

By *Elayne Weiss, Senior Policy Analyst, National Low Income Housing Coalition*

Lobbying Congress is a direct way to advocate for the issues and programs that are important to you. Members of Congress are accountable to constituents of a certain region, and each individual or organization should be able to connect with their senators and representatives through a fairly simple process. As a constituent, you have the right to lobby the members who represent you; as a housing advocate, you should exercise this right.

CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

To find out the contact information for your Member of Congress, visit NLIHC's congressional directory at <http://capwiz.com/nlihc/dbq/officials>, or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

MEETING WITH YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Scheduling a meeting, crafting your agenda, developing the appropriate materials to take with you, determining your "ask" or "asks" ahead of time, making sure your meeting does not veer away from the subject at hand, and following up afterward, are all crucial elements to holding effective meetings with Members of Congress.

For more tips on how to lobby effectively, see [*Lobbying*](#).

KEY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The following are key housing authorizing and appropriating committees in Congress:

- House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services
- House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
- House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means

- Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Committee on Finance

See below for details on these key committees as of February 1, 2017. For all committees, members are listed in order of seniority. Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk (*).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

<http://financialservices.house.gov>

The House Committee on Financial Services oversees all components of the nation's housing and financial services sectors, including banking, insurance, real estate, public and assisted housing, and securities. The committee reviews laws and programs relating to HUD, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the government sponsored enterprises including the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and international development and finance agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The committee also ensures enforcement of housing and consumer protection laws such the U.S. Housing Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Housing and Community Development Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, the Community Reinvestment Act, and financial privacy laws.

The Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance oversees HUD and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mac). The subcommittee also handles matters related to housing affordability, rural housing, and government sponsored insurance programs such as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the National Flood Insurance Program, and community development, including Empowerment Zones.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Jeb Hensarling (TX), *Chair*
- Peter King (NY)
- Ed Royce* (CA)
- Frank Lucas (OK)
- Patrick McHenry (NC)
- Steve Pearce* (NM)
- Bill Posey* (FL)
- Blaine Luetkemeyer* (MO)
- Bill Huizenga (MI)
- Sean Duffy* (WI), *Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Chair*
- Steve Stivers* (OH)
- Randy Hultgren* (IL)
- Dennis Ross* (FL)
- Robert Pittenger (NC)
- Ann Wagner (MO)
- Andy Barr (KY)
- Keith Rothfus* (PA)
- Luke Messer (IN)
- Scott Tipton (CO)
- Roger Williams (TX)
- Bruce Poliquin (ME)
- Mia Love (UT)
- French Hill (AR)
- Tom Emmer (MN)
- Lee Zeldin* (NY)
- Dave Trott* (MI)
- Barry Loudermilk (GA)
- Alexander Mooney (WV)
- Thomas MacArthur* (NJ)
- Warren Davidson (OH)
- Ted Budd* (NC)
- David Kustoff (TN)
- Claudia Tenny, NY
- Trey Hollingsworth, IN

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Maxine Waters (CA), *Ranking Member*
- Carolyn Maloney (NY)
- Nydia Velázquez* (NY)
- Brad Sherman* (CA)
- Gregory Meeks (NY)
- Michael Capuano* (MA)
- William “Lacy” Clay, Jr.* (MO)
- Stephen Lynch* (MA)
- David Scott (GA)
- Al Green (TX)
- Emanuel Cleaver (MO), *Subcommittee Ranking Member*
- Gwen Moore (WI)
- Keith Ellison (MN)
- Ed Perlmutter (CO)
- James Himes (CT)
- Bill Foster (IL)
- Daniel Kildee* (MI)
- John Delaney* (MD)
- Kyrsten Sinema (AZ)
- Joyce Beatty* (OH)
- Denny Heck (WA)
- Juan Vargas (CA)
- Josh Gottheimer (NJ)
- Vicente Gonzalez (TX)
- Charlie Crist (FL)
- Ruben Kihuen* (NV)

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

<http://appropriations.house.gov>

The House Committee on Appropriations is responsible for determining the amount of funding made available to all authorized programs each year.

The Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) determines the amount of government revenues dedicated to HUD, among other agencies.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ), *Chair*
- Harold Rogers (KY)
- Robert Aderholt (AL)
- Kay Granger (TX)
- Michael Simpson (ID)
- John Abney Culberson* (TX)
- John R. Carter (TX)
- Ken Calvert (CA)
- Tom Cole (OK)
- Mario Diaz-Balart* (FL), *Subcommittee Chair*
- Charles Dent* (PA)
- Tom Graves* (GA)
- Kevin Yoder (KS)
- Steve Womack (AR)
- Jeff Fortenberry (NE)
- Tom Rooney (FL)
- Chuck Fleischmann (TN)
- Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA)
- David Joyce* (OH)
- David Valadao* (CA)
- Andy Harris (MD)
- Martha Roby (AL)
- Mark Amodei (NV)
- Chris Stewart (UT)
- David Young* (IA)
- Evan Jenkins (WV)
- Steven Palazzo (MS)

- Dan Newhouse (WA)
- John Moolenaar (MI)
- Scott Taylor (VA)

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Nita Lowey (NY), *Ranking Member*
- Marcy Kaptur (OH)
- Peter Visclosky (IN)
- José Serrano (NY)
- Rosa DeLauro (CT)
- David Price* (NC), *Subcommittee Ranking Member*
- Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
- Sanford Bishop, Jr. (GA)
- Barbara Lee (CA)
- Betty McCollum (MN)
- Tim Ryan (OH)
- C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD)
- Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)
- Henry Cuellar (TX)
- Chellie Pingree (ME)
- Mike Quigley* (IL)
- Derek Kilmer (WA)
- Matt Cartwright (PA)
- Grace Meng (NY)
- Mark Pocan (WI)
- Katherine Clark* (MA)
- Pete Aguilar* (CA)

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

The Committee on Ways and Means is the chief tax writing committee in the House of Representatives.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Kevin Brady (TX), *Chair*
- Sam Johnson (TX)
- Devin Nunes (CA)
- Pat Tiberi (OH)
- Dave Reichert (WA)
- Peter J. Roskam (IL)
- Tom Price (GA)
- Vern Buchanan (FL)
- Adrian Smith (NE)
- Lynn Jenkins (KS)
- Erik Paulsen (MN)
- Kenny Marchant (TX)
- Diane Black (TN)
- Tom Reed (NY)
- Mike Kelly (PA)
- James Renacci (OH)
- Patrick Meehan (PA)
- Kristi Noem (SD)
- George Holding (NC)
- Jason Smith (MO)
- Tom Rice (SC)
- David Schweikert (AZ)
- Jackie Walorski (IN)
- Carlos Curbelo (FL)

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Richard Neal (MA), *Ranking Member*
- Sander Levin (MI)
- John Lewis (GA)
- Lloyd Doggett (TX)

- Mike Thompson (CA)
- John Larson (CT)
- Earl Blumenauer (OR)
- Ron Kind (WI)
- Bill Pascrell Jr. (NJ)
- Joseph Crowley (NY)
- Danny Davis (IL)
- Linda Sánchez (CA)
- Brian Higgins (NY)
- Terri Sewell (AL)
- Suzan DelBene (WA)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

<http://banking.senate.gov/public>

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs oversees legislation, petitions, and other matters relating to financial institutions, economic policy, housing, transportation, urban development, international trade and finance, and securities and investments.

The Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development oversees urban mass transit systems and general urban affairs and development issues, and is the primary oversight committee for HUD. The subcommittee oversees HUD community development programs, the FHA, the Rural Housing Service, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and all issues related to public and private housing, senior housing, nursing home construction, and Indian housing issues.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Michael Crapo (ID), *Chair*
- Richard Shelby* (AL)
- Bob Corker (TN)
- Patrick Toomey (PA)
- Mark Kirk (IL)
- Dean Heller* (NV)
- Tim Scott* (SC), *Subcommittee Chair*
- Ben Sasse (NE)
- Tom Cotton (AR)

- Mike Rounds* (SD)
- David Perdue (GA)
- Thom Tillis* (NC)
- John Kennedy* (LA)

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Sherrod Brown (OH), *Ranking Member*
- Jack Reed* (RI)
- Robert Menendez* (NJ), *Subcommittee Ranking Member*
- Jon Tester (MT)
- Mark R. Warner (VA)
- Elizabeth Warren (MA)
- Heidi Heitkamp* (ND)
- Joe Donnelly (IN)
- Brian Schatz* (HI)
- Chris Van Hollen* (MD)
- Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

The Senate Committee on Appropriations is responsible for determining the amount of funding made available to all authorized programs each year.

THUD has jurisdiction over funding for the Department of Transportation and HUD.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Thad Cochran (MS) *Chair*
- Mitch McConnell (KY)
- Richard Shelby* (AL)
- Lamar Alexander* (TN)
- Susan Collins* (ME), *Subcommittee Chair*
- Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- Lindsey Graham* (SC)
- Mark Kirk (IL)
- Roy Blunt* (MO)

- Jerry Moran (KS)
- John Hoeven* (ND)
- John Boozman* (AR)
- Shelley Moore Capito* (WV)
- Bill Cassidy (LA)
- James Lankford (OK)
- Steve Daines* (MT)

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Patrick Leahy (VT), *Ranking Member*
- Patty Murray* (WA)
- Dianne Feinstein* (CA)
- Richard Durbin* (IL)
- Jack Reed* (RI), *Subcommittee Ranking Member*
- Jon Tester (MT)
- Tom Udall (NM)
- Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
- Jeff Merkley (OR)
- Chris Coons* (DE)
- Brian Schatz* (HI)
- Tammy Baldwin (WI)
- Christopher Murphy* (CT)
- Joe Manchin* (WV)
- Chris Van Hollen (MD)

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

www.finance.senate.gov

The Senate Committee on Finance oversees matters relating to taxation and other revenue measures generally, such as health programs under the Social Security Act, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Orrin Hatch (UT), *Chair*
- Chuck Grassley (IA)

- Mike Crapo (ID)
- Pat Roberts (KS)
- Michael B. Enzi (WY)
- John Cornyn (TX)
- John Thune (SD)
- Richard Burr (NC)
- Johnny Isakson (GA)
- Rob Portman (OH)
- Patrick Toomey (PA)
- Dean Heller (NV)
- Tim Scott (SC)
- Bill Cassidy (LA)

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Ron Wyden (OR), *Ranking Member*
- Debbie Stabenow (MI)
- Maria Cantwell (WA)
- Bill Nelson (FL)
- Robert Menendez (NJ)
- Thomas Carper (DE)
- Benjamin Cardin (MD)
- Sherrod Brown (OH)
- Michael Bennet (CO)
- Robert Casey, Jr. (PA)
- Mark Warner (VA)
- Claire McCaskill (MO)

*Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.