Hill Day Experience
Mobilize the PTA Way Webinar – Part 2
Wednesday May 24th, 2022

Presented by the National PTA Legislation Committee & National PTA Staff

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
National Harbor, Maryland
Today's Agenda

➢ Introductions & Getting to Know Your Fellow PTA Advocates
➢ Grounding Our Work in Our Mission
➢ What We'll Be Fighting For On June 15th: Our 2022 "Hill Asks"
➢ Breakout Rooms: Connecting Personal Narrative to Advocacy
➢ Next Steps & Reminders
➢ Q & A
In the chat – please share your name and where you're joining us from today!

- Introduction of Today's Speakers
- Have you ever met with an elected official to talk about an issue of importance to your community?
- You'll meet your fellow advocates June 14!
Why are we here?

To make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.
What will we be fighting for on June 15?

Federal Funding
Child Nutrition
Youth Mental Health
Safety & Violence Prevention

These are our requests of Congress, also called our "Hill Asks"
Which of these issues are top of mind for your PTA, your family, your community?

The Power of Your Voice, Your Story
Child Nutrition Overview

- Today, most schools in the U.S. (91%) participate in at least one of the federal child nutrition programs, serving breakfast and lunch to millions of children.

- Many families rely upon school & summer meals esp. with high cost of produce/perishables, workforce & supply chain issues, food insecurity and childhood obesity exacerbated by the pandemic.

- Dietary Guidelines were updated in 2020 but the federal child nutrition programs were last reauthorized over a decade ago!

- Today we're hearing bipartisan interest in moving this forward + strong support from school administrators, food suppliers, and nonprofit organizations.
Congress must pass a Child Nutrition Reauthorization package this year that:

- Ensures school meals are healthy and nutritious for growing children and teens, consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

- Enables schools to successfully transition after the pandemic back to following the evidenced-based meal patterns through higher reimbursement rates, administrative flexibilities and technical assistance around production, procurement and preparation

- Encourages schools to adopt student wellness policies with the input of families and provide adequate time for kids to eat and play
A National State of Emergency in Children’s Mental Health was declared in 2021 by leading medical/pediatric groups, in part because of the trauma, disruption, stress and isolation caused by the pandemic, including caregiver loss for over 140,000 children.

Before pandemic, research showed that about 40% of children experience a mental health concern by 7th grade (now likely higher).

Most students currently do not receive the mental health support they need, and those that do usually receive it at school.

Today we're hearing strong bipartisan interest in moving this forward in Congress + in Administration, including some movement already.
PTA's 2022 Youth Mental Health Ask

Congress must include in any mental health package this year language that:

- Ensures all students have access to mental health resources at school and in their community, including targeted support for underserved populations and children experiencing trauma.
- Encourages schools to adopt practices that establish safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments for all students.
- Promotes social and emotional learning, including resources for families to support this critical practice at home.
- Extends the pipeline of school-based mental health professionals and allows for schools to be reimbursed for services through Medicaid.
- Provides support services for whole families impacted by addiction.
Safety & Violence Prevention Overview

- There are 73 million children in the U.S. and an estimated 46 million of whom will experience a traumatic event in a given year (e.g., violence, abuse, psychological trauma).
- Firearms are now the leading cause of death for American children and teens.
- Approximately 3 million American children witness gun violence each year, and youth suicide by firearm has increased 59% over the last decade. There have been over 875 incidents of gunfire on school grounds recorded in the United States since 2013.
- Pressure is needed to ensure this violence prevention work is bipartisan and Congress tackles this issue in an election year.
PTA'S 2022 Violence Prevention Hill Ask

Congress must pass legislation that:

- Invests in evidence-based community violence intervention strategies
- Requires a waiting period and a comprehensive background check for all individuals prior to purchasing a firearm
- Funds research on gun violence prevention and encourages reporting on school crime and safety
- Prevents discrimination and harmful disciplinary practices in schools
- Encourages gun safety education and the safe storage of firearms
PTA'S 2022 Federal Funding Hill Ask

- We'll be asking Congress to fund programs that support the education, health, safety and well-being of every child.
- Targeting Child Nutrition, Youth Mental Health Services, Family Engagement, Childcare, Safety & Violence Prevention, and School Infrastructure.
- Through FY23 Appropriations & FY22 Reconciliation processes.
Breakout Rooms

- Opportunity to share your story
- Opportunity to hear from fellow PTA advocates
- Opportunity to ask questions about these issues

Breakout Room 1 - Child Nutrition
Breakout Room 2 - Youth Mental Health
Breakout Room 3 - Safety & Violence Prevention
Main Zoom Room - Hill Visits 101

You are welcome to visit any room & to switch between rooms!
Resources

- Leave Behinds covering the 4 Hill Asks discussed today
- Crafting Your Ask for Each Hill Meeting planning tool
- Webinar Slides & Recordings

... and much more at www.pta.org/LegCon
Next Steps

❑ Practice, practice, practice connecting Hill Asks + Your Story!

❑ Check out all the great Hill Day tips & tools at www.pta.org/LegCon

❑ More details arriving in your inbox from legcon@pta.org. Check Spam to make sure you are receiving these!
Next Steps

- Make sure your friends register for Hill Day by **May 31st**! One week away!
- Plan to arrive before our first event Welcome & Reception, 5pm June 14th!
- Reach out to your state leaders or National PTA with questions!

Find your state leaders: [https://bit.ly/PTAstate](https://bit.ly/PTAstate)  Contact National PTA: [legcon@pta.org](mailto:legcon@pta.org)
Day of Hill Visits Tips & Best Practices

Attire
- Wear formal attire with comfortable walking shoes
- Bring necessary accessories for the weather
- *Please bring face masks in case requested in buildings or in certain offices*

Security
- Metal Detectors are at all Visitor’s Entrances
- Large bags, pointed objects, and aerosols are not permitted in the Capitol

Materials
- Make sure to bring all of the materials you may need to your Hill Visits
Transportation & Getting Around

On Capitol Hill

Complimentary shuttle bus service will be provided to Capitol Hill from 9:00am to 9:20am.

Because Hill meetings will conclude at different times, you will be responsible for your return to the Gaylord National Harbor Convention Center.

For Directions & Transportation Information: https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/maps/travel/wasgn-gaylord-national-resort-and-convention-center/
Final Word and Q & A

Please stick around if you have questions or email legcon@pta.org!