



SOUTH CAROLINA BLUES FEDERAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

August 2020

Committees of the US Congress Part 1: House of Representatives

Members of Congress are not expected to be experts in all areas. Instead, the in-depth work happens in committee formats. Congressional committees monitor ongoing governmental operations, identify issues suitable for legislative review, gather and evaluate information, and recommend courses of action. Each committee serves as the knowledgeable entity in their respective areas.

The US House of Representatives has 20 standing and 3 special committees. The US Senate has 16 standing and 5 special committees. There are 4 joint committees and 4 commissions comprised of members from both the House and Senate. Below is a brief summary of the responsibility of each committee in the US House of Representatives. The September newsletter will focus on the committees that make up the US Senate. While any committee could potentially affect portions of our business, there are specific committees that work directly in healthcare, insurance, information technology, and workforce. Those have been denoted below.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture

Responsible for all federal agriculture policy and some federal agencies. They recommend funding for various agencies, programs, and activities centered around keeping food safe and affordable, building and maintaining quality of life in rural areas, and ensuring the competitiveness of American agriculture.

Appropriations

Responsible for passing appropriations bills along with its Senate counterpart that regulate government expenditures.

Can affect our industry specifically through the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.

Armed Services

Responsible for funding and oversight of the Department of Defense and the United States Army Forces, as well as portions of the Department of Energy.

Can affect our industry.

Budget

Responsible for drafting and preparation of concurrent resolutions on the budget that sets the revenue and spending for the given fiscal year.

Can affect our industry.

Education and Labor

Responsible for ensuring that the needs of American workers and students move forward in a changing school system and competitive global economy.

Can affect our industry.

Energy and Commerce

Responsible for legislative oversight relating to telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce.

Can affect our industry specifically through the Subcommittee on Health.

Ethics

Responsible for setting rules that regulate member/officers/staff behavior, conducts investigations, makes recommendations on what actions should be taken as a result of the investigation, and provides advice to members.

Financial Services

Responsible for overseeing the entire financial services industry including securities, insurance, banking, and house industries. They also oversee the Federal Reserve, Department of Treasury, Securities and Exchange Commission, and other financial services regulators.

Can affect our industry.

Foreign Affairs

Responsible for legislation and oversight to foreign assistance, national security, strategic planning and agreements, war powers, treaties, deployments, peacekeeping, enforcement of sanctions, arms control, International Development Finance Corporation, activities of the State, Commerce, and Defense Departments, international law, exports, promotion of democracy, international cyber issues, US Agency for Global Media, embassy security, and any other matter relating to international programs.

Homeland Security

Responsible for oversight and legislation related to the security of the United States. They may amend, approve, or table homeland security related bills and have the power to hold hearings, conduct investigations, and subpoena witnesses.

House Administration

Responsible for federal elections and the day-to-day operations of the House of Representatives.

Judiciary

Responsible for overseeing the administration of justice within the federal courts, administrative agencies, and Federal law enforcement entities.

Natural Resources

Responsible for legislation and oversight of federal conservation and species protection programs.

Oversight and Reform

Serves as the main investigative committee for the US House of Representatives. They have authority to investigate any subject or matter within the House committees.

Rules

Responsible for determining in what order bills should be presented on the House floor. They also review, adopt and schedule floor resolutions.

Can affect our industry.

Science, Space, and Technology

Responsible for all non-defense federal scientific research and development. Agencies they oversee are NASA, NSF, NIST, OSTP and research and development in DOE, EPA, DOT, FAA, NOAA, NWS, and DHS.

Can affect our industry.

Small Business

Responsible for investigating the problems of small businesses and examining the impact of the general business practices and trends on small businesses.

Can affect our industry.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Responsible for all transportation including aviation, maritime and waterborne transportation, highways, bridges, mass transit, and railroads.

Veterans' Affairs

Responsible for oversight of all agencies, legislation, and bills that concern US military veterans. Jurisdiction includes pensions, life insurance, education, vocational training, medical care, veterans' hospitals, veterans' cemeteries, and home loans.

Can affect our industry.

Ways and Means

Responsible for taxation, tariffs, revenue-raising measures, Social Security, Medicare, unemployment benefits, and child support laws.

Can affect our industry specifically through the Subcommittee on Health.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Responsible for oversight and legislation relating to the nation's intelligence agencies including components in DOD, DHS, Justice, State, Treasury, and Energy.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

Responsible for investigating, studying, making findings, and developing recommendations on policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

Responsible for investigating, studying, making findings, holding public hearings, and developing recommendations to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent.



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