

SCDAI Advocacy Glossary

These are only some of the important terms. Go to www.congress.gov/help/legislative-glossary to learn more!

Learn important advocacy-related terms by reading through this glossary!

Go to www.scdai-cares.com to learn more from our "Advocate Toolkit"



Legislation

This term is used to refer to laws and bills. You generally use this when referring to a collection/group of bills or laws at the state or federal (national) level.

Example: "Legislation supporting sickle cell disease is incredibly important for the community!"

Congress

The national governing body of the U.S., made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress creates & passes laws, helps manage the U.S. budget, and more.

Learn more at www.congress.gov

Regulation

Additional rules or policies that take general legislation and make it more specific for the benefit of those involved. Regulations are written and published by government agencies (not by Congress or the President).

Example: HIPAA Privacy Rule

The Senate

One of two chambers of Congress. There are 100 senators (2 from each state). Senators serve 6-year terms.

Learn more at www.senate.gov

Learn more at www.scdai-cares.com

House of Representatives

Learn more at www.house.gov

One of two chambers of Congress. There are 435 Representatives. The number for each state depends on the population of the state. (Bigger states get more.) Representatives serve 2-year terms.

Staffer

The people who work for Senators and Representatives. The “staffers” often specialize in a particular area, like health, finance, or something else. It is normal to meet with a staffer instead of the actual Senator or Representative.

Fiscal

Refers to something related to government spending, budget, or money.

Example: “Each new president has to create their own fiscal policy to show how they’re going to help the economy.”

Lame Duck

Not a joke! This refers to the last couple months of a current president’s term, after a different president has been elected.

Example: “We don’t expect Congress to make much progress on bills during the lame duck session.”

Bipartisan

This term refers to an effort that involves both political parties (both Democrats and Republicans).

Example: “The most successful type of legislation is bipartisan because everybody agrees it is a priority!”

Bicameral

This term refers to an effort that involves both chambers of Congress.

Example: “This bicameral legislation was introduced in both the House and the Senate.”

Continuing Resolution

A type of legislation that dedicates funding to a specific government program, agency, or department. This happens when the President & Congress haven’t agreed on a new federal budget by the new fiscal year.