

Oncology Nursing Society Capitol Gang

The Oncology Nursing Society “Capitol Gang” is a group of ONS members who reside in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area who volunteer their time and expertise to help support ONS's health policy and advocacy efforts in the nation's capital and serve as a local resource for ONS' health policy associates at Drinker Biddle & Reath (DBR), ONS's Washington, DC government relations firm.

Each year, Capitol Gang members receive an orientation to ONS's health policy and advocacy agenda and program at a dinner – typically held in January or February – hosted at DBR's downtown DC office by ONS's health policy associates. After this kick-off, throughout the year, Capitol Gang members are informed of various ONS health policy and advocacy activities and if their schedules permit, they participate and show support for ONS and its members. Whenever Capitol Gang members are solicited for involvement, they are provided with all the information and support they need to be effective advocates.

Activities throughout the year in which the Capitol Gang may be enlisted include: participating in “Capitol Hill” lobby days organized by ONS or its advocacy partners; accompanying the ONS health policy associates on meetings with members of Congress and their staff; attending federal agency meetings, hearings, briefings, or conferences; reviewing and providing input on draft legislation or proposed regulations; representing ONS at press conferences or other public meetings; and other advocacy activities to support the ONS health policy agenda. **To view the current ONS health policy agenda please visit: http://www.ons.org/lac/pdf/HP%20Agenda_110th_1st_Session.pdf**

Please note that government employees generally are prohibited from lobbying and, therefore, are not be eligible to be in the Capitol Gang, unless the applicant can provide assurances that no federal resources will be utilized to support Capitol Gang activities.

The inaugural session of the Capitol Gang officially commenced in January 2003 with the opening of the 1st Session of the 108th Congress. Since that time, additional members have been recruited on a rolling basis to join in the activities of subsequent sessions of Congress. ONS generally recruits new members to the Capitol Gang in November and December of each year, for service to commence in January of the subsequent year. Generally, Capitol Gang members serve two-year terms and can have their terms extended should they wish to continue to participate.

To learn more about the ONS Capitol Gang or to be considered for membership, please contact Health Policy Manager Leslie Greenberg at lgreenberg@ons.org.