

ACP Services PAC

Frequently Asked Questions and Best Practices

Q: What is the mission of ACP Services PAC?

A: The PAC's mission is to help get internist-friendly candidates elected to Congress, in elevating the College's policy agenda with lawmakers in Congress, and in supporting those lawmakers who share our views and values.

Q: What is the difference between membership in ACP versus ACP Services versus ACP Services PAC?

A: When one becomes a member of ACP, a 501(c)3 organization, he/she is then automatically a member of ACP Services, Inc., a 501(c)6 and sister organization to ACP. Membership in ACP/ACP Services, Inc. is completely separate from membership in ACP Services Political Action Committee (PAC), a political advocacy program housed under ACP Services, Inc. Once becoming a member of ACP/ACP Services, a separate voluntary contribution (not deductible for tax purposes) of your choosing is needed in order to join ACP Services PAC.

Q: Do my ACP membership dues support the contributions made by ACP Services PAC to lawmakers?

A: No. Contributions from the PAC to lawmakers are derived from "voluntary" contributions made by ACP Services members who join the PAC separately and apart from their membership in ACP.

Q: Who determines which lawmakers receive political contributions from the PAC and what do they consider when making those decisions?

A: The PAC has a 15-member Board of Directors, comprised of PAC members from across the nation, and they decide which candidates/incumbents in Congress receive contributions from the PAC. The Board bases its political contributions to lawmakers on a myriad of factors including their participation on key committees with jurisdiction over health care policy, their sponsorship of legislation/policy initiatives, their positions of leadership within their caucuses, their voting record on issues of importance to ACP Services, and their conduct.

Q: Has ACP Services PAC ever withheld or suspended contributions to lawmakers and, if so, why?

A: Yes. The PAC consistently monitors lawmakers' votes and actions, and the PAC Board has, after careful consideration, suspended or withheld contributions in cases where a lawmaker's actions raised ethical or legal concerns. In 2021, the PAC Board unanimously voted to suspend PAC contributions to the 147 lawmakers who voted on January 6th against ratifying the electoral

votes in PA and AZ for incoming President Joe Biden. The confluence of events that led up to the January 6th vote were simply unprecedented. The PAC Board determined that the January 6th insurrection on the U.S. Capitol, combined with efforts to delegitimize the results of a free and fair election (*as so certified by the states and validated by the courts*) from within the Congress itself, merited its decision to suspend PAC contributions to those 147 lawmakers.

Q: How do I become involved in ACP Services PAC?

A: You can visit www.acpservices.org/pac to learn more about ACP Services PAC activities.

Q: Do I have to make a contribution to ACP Services PAC in order to become a member? If yes, does that entitle me to a year-long membership?

A: It is necessary to make a contribution, of any denomination, in order to become a member of the PAC. That contribution affords you membership in the PAC for the duration of that calendar year so it is best to get your contribution in early in the calendar year.

Q: What are the benefits of membership to ACP Services PAC?

A: Membership in the PAC enables you to cultivate good relationships with your members of Congress, attend fundraisers for those lawmakers on behalf of the PAC in conjunction with a contribution to that lawmaker from the PAC, and benefit from briefings from PAC staff about key policy issues on the federal level that may impact your practice. By engaging with lawmakers through the PAC, you can also serve as a valuable resource in helping them to understand how federal health policies impact medicine and your patients.

Q: I dislike politics. What is the purpose of ACP Services having a PAC?

A: The PAC functions as an additional tool in the College's overall advocacy platform. The PAC, operating under a 501(c)6 tax status, enables the College to advocate with Congress in the political arena where ACP, as a 501(c)3, cannot legally do so. The PAC, by pooling voluntary contributions from its members, can then give financial support directly to lawmakers who support our internal medicine agenda.

Q: Are PACs regulated?

A: ACP Services PAC is highly regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC), as are all federally-designated PACs. The PAC is also highly transparent and must file monthly reports with the FEC disclosing its activities and contributions.

Q: Does the PAC only give to one political party?

A: No. The PAC is, and always has been, bipartisan, and we collectively support lawmakers and candidates who are aligned with our views and priorities. We don't always agree on all issues but we seek to find common ground with lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle.

Q: Why do we support lawmakers who do not seem to support our policy priorities?

A: There are instances where the PAC has and does support a lawmaker whose positions are not well aligned with the PAC's agenda on some issues but are aligned on others. It might also be the case that the lawmaker in question serves on a particularly important House or Senate committee and we find it valuable to have an open dialogue with him/her through the PAC. Sometimes it is important if not necessary to respectfully argue our position with that lawmaker, even though it means disagreeing, in order for us to perhaps arrive at a place of common ground. Finding that common ground with a lawmaker serves to benefit the PAC and its members immensely.

Q: Can I ask for funds to support a candidate?

A: Yes. If you are a member of the PAC, you can submit an online form requesting financial support for a candidate for Congress or an incumbent in Congress. If that request is approved by the PAC's Board of Directors, the staff will then work with you so that you can attend a fundraiser on behalf of the PAC for that lawmaker in connection with a contribution made by the PAC.