



March 1, 2010

Dear ACCP Capitol Hill Caucus Participant:

Thank you for registering for the 17th Annual ACCP Capitol Hill Caucus on March 8-9, 2010, at The Fairfax at Embassy Row in Washington, DC. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive meeting to learn more about the legislative priorities for pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine and to positively impact these priorities. You will have the opportunity at the Caucus to discuss with political insiders, including, but not limited to, your own US Representative and Senators and/or their staff, issues that have profound implications for our patients and profession.

Before You Go

In preparation for your meetings with your legislators and/or their staff, we strongly encourage you to do the following prior to attending the Caucus:

- ✓ View the free, 1-hour ACCP advocacy education webinar, *What To Know Before You Go*, at <http://www.chestnet.org/accp/advocacy/podcasts>, which discusses the key asks, tips for getting your message across, three strategies for getting members of Congress and their staff to listen-up and take action, as well as the top 10 things NOT to say. We particularly recommend this webinar for those attendees who have never attended the Caucus.
- ✓ View the free, 45-min *The Critical Care Workforce Shortage: An ACCP Advocacy Education Podcast* at <http://www.chestnet.org/accp/advocacy/podcasts>. There is 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™ available for this podcast, which provides important background information regarding the workforce crisis that will not be covered in as great detail at the Caucus.
- ✓ Review the background information posted on the ACCP Advocacy Resource Center Web site at <http://www.chestnet.org/accp/advocacy/caucus>. Copies of these materials will not be provided at the Caucus. However, attendees will receive “leave behind” materials for their legislators at registration.

- ✓ Use the ACCP Advocacy Resource Center at <http://www.capwiz.com/chestnet/home/> to learn more about your elected officials, and consider how the current ACCP legislative priorities—the growing critical care workforce shortage, the perennial threat of significant cuts in Medicare physician payments, and poor air quality—impact your ability to provide quality medical care and the lung function of your patients.

On-site Events

On-site registration for the Caucus begins on Monday, March 8, at 10:30 AM outside the Ballroom at The Fairfax. At registration, you will receive your schedule of appointments for your Hill visits (all appointments have been scheduled between 11:30 AM and 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 9), your nametag, materials to leave behind with your legislators, and more. Please remember to **bring your business cards** for distribution on the Hill and **your photo ID** to gain access into the House and Senate office buildings.

If you are arriving on Sunday, March 7, you are invited to attend an informal pizza party in the Whitehall Room at The Fairfax from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. This is a fun opportunity to network with old and new colleagues alike.

For questions regarding the Caucus, please contact Terri Berman, ACCP Health Affairs, at (847) 498-8362, or tberman@chestnet.org.

On behalf of the ACCP, thank you again for taking time out of your busy schedule to participate in this important event for our patients and profession. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,



Irwin Berlin, MD, FCCP
Chair, ACCP Government Relations Committee