



ASE ADVOCACY GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Act	Legislation enacted into law. A bill which has passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.
Amendment	Changes in pending legislation by adding, deleting or modifying material.
APMs	Stands for Alternative Payment Models, which are payment structures under the Quality Payment Program (QPP) that reward providers for high-quality, cost-efficient care, as opposed to traditional fee-for-service.
Appropriation	Money allocated by the Legislature to various departments or agencies for their operation.
Bicameral	A legislature composed of two houses (House and Senate.)
Bill	A proposal for the enactment of a new law, the amendment or repeal of an existing one, or appropriation of public money.
Budget	A proposal for the expenditure of public dollars during a given fiscal year.
Budget Reconciliation	A special legislative procedure that allows for the passage of legislation affecting the budget with a simple majority vote in the Senate. Reconciliation allows for expedited consideration of certain and specified changes in law to align spending, revenue, and the debt limit with agreed-upon budget targets.
Caucus	An informational meeting of a group of members usually of the same political party to discuss policy or legislation.
Chair	Presiding officer of the Legislature such as the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate or a committee chairman.
Chamber	The area reserved for members and staff for conducting legislative sessions – also called the “floor”
Clerk	Chief administrative and parliamentary officer of the House or Senate. The custodian of the official records.
Cloture	A motion generally used at the congressional level in the Senate to end a filibuster. Invoking cloture in the US Senate requires a vote by three-fifths of the full Senate. If cloture is invoked further debate is limited to 30 hours, it is not a vote on passage of the piece of legislation.
Committee	A division within the House of Senate, to which members are assigned, that has jurisdiction over a set area. Once a bill is introduced, it is assigned to the appropriate committee(s) for consideration.

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Concurrence	Action of one house agreeing to or approving a proposal or action by the other body.
Concurrent Resolution	Used to express the sense of both chambers.
Conference	After the state of disagreement has been reached, a motion to ask for a conference may be made by the house refusing to recede from its position on a measure.
Conference Committee	A committee made up of members from both houses, appointed by the presiding officer of each house to try to resolve differences in legislative measures. Typically, a majority of the conferees of each house are required to approve a compromise of matters in disagreement before submitting a report to the entire membership of each house for final approval. Conference reports may not be amended.
Congressional Hearing	An official meeting of a committee or subcommittee held to obtain information on a bill or an issue.
Constituent	A citizen residing within the district of a legislator.
Continuing Resolution (CR)	Temporary spending bills that allow federal government operations to continue when final appropriations have not been approved by Congress and the President. Without final appropriations or a continuing resolution (CR), there could be a lapse in funding that results in a government shutdown.
Co-Sponsor	A member or members that add their names formally in support of another member's (lead-sponsor's) bill.
Debt Limit	The total amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including Social Security and Medicare benefits, military salaries, interest on the national debt, tax refunds, and other payments.
Doc Fix	Refers to legislation addressing physician Medicare reimbursement cuts. Also refers to temporary legislation that was enacted 17 times between 2003 and 2014 to prevent those provider reimbursement cuts from being implemented before Congress passed legislation to repeal and replace the sustainable growth rate formula
Filibuster	An informal term for extended debate used to prevent a vote on a bill.
Floor	The area where the business of the full Senate or House is conducted. (The Chamber)
Hearing	A public meeting of a legislative committee for the purpose of taking testimony concerning pending legislation.
Introduction of Legislation	The act of formally putting a bill before the body, usually by assigning it a bill number, reading the title of the bill and referring it to the appropriate committee(s).
Joint Committee	A committee composed of members from both houses.
Joint Resolution	A type of resolution that is treated the same as a bill in that they are presented to the President for approval. Unless a joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment. In that case it does not require the approval of the president, but rather a two-thirds vote of Congress.

TERM	DEFINITION
Leadership	The most powerful members of the majority and minority parties. Leadership generally consists of the presiding officers, majority and minority leaders, whips and major committee chairs. Most often used to refer to the leaders of the majority party.
Legislative Vehicle	The bill or measure itself that is being considered and passed through the lawmaking process. It's the official "container" or "instrument" for a proposed law, and the term is used to distinguish it from other similar proposals.
Lobbyist	A person who seeks directly or indirectly to encourage the passage, defeat or modification of any legislation.
Majority	The number of members in each chamber generally necessary to pass legislation; also a group of legislators usually of the same political party who have the greatest number of elected members and who control top leadership positions.
Majority Leader	A position, appointed by the presiding officer or elected by the majority party membership in each chamber. The Majority Leader generally controls the schedules and workings of each chamber. In the United States Senate, the majority Leader is first in command, although the vice president of the United States is the president of the Senate. In the US House, the Majority Leader is second in command behind the Speaker of the House.
Mark-up	The consideration of a bill in subcommittee or committee during which the bill is written on to indicate revisions.
Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)	Act that abolished the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate payment formula. MACRA created the Quality Payment System that changes the way Medicare rewards clinicians for value over volume by creating a Merit Based Incentive Payments System (MIPS) that gives bonus payments for participation in eligible alternative payment models (APMs)
Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)	A key part of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). The MIPS program ties Medicare payments to quality and cost-efficiency of care provision by tracking and scoring performance through four categories: quality, cost, improvement activities, and promoting interoperability.
Minority	A group of legislators usually of the same political party which numbers the fewest members.
Motion	A proposal made to the presiding officer calling for specific action. The principal tool used in the transaction of legislative business. Motions are of various order, rank, precedence and class as established through parliamentary practice and rules.
On the Floor	Under consideration by the full House or Senate.
President	The presiding officer of the Senate elected by Senate members.

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Quality Payment Program (QPP)	Program established under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). The initiative aims to reward clinicians for providing high-quality, high-value care over the volume of services. The QPP uses a value-based payment system with two pathways: the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
Ranking Minority Member	The senior member of the minority party on any given subcommittee or committee.
Recess	Intermission in daily session or committee meetings.
Regulation	A rule or order issued by the executive branch of government that has the force of law and usually is authorized by a law.
Report	A document giving a committee's (or subcommittee's) opinion and actions on a bill, or the act of a committee (or subcommittee) concluding its consideration of a bill and referring the bill to the full Senate or House to be placed on the legislative calendar for consideration.
Resolution	A measure used by a single house to take action affecting its own procedure or expressing an opinion, sympathy, commendation, etc. Resolutions are not signed by the President and therefore do not have the force of law.
Rider	An amendment that has been attached to an unrelated bill. Riders are often attached to appropriations bills.
Roll Call	Recorded votes that specify how each member voted. Certain measures may require a roll call vote.
Rules	The set of regulations and parliamentary procedures adopted separately by the House and Senate. There may also be joint rules that apply to both houses.
Select Committee	A committee appointed by the Speaker or the President to handle specific matters and usually dissolved when the purpose is accomplished.
Speaker	The presiding officer in the House elected by House members. At the Congressional level the speaker is second in line (after the vice president) to succeed the U.S. presidency.
Sponsor	A legislator or legislative committee introducing a measure.
Standing Committee	A committee of members appointed by the Speaker and the President at the beginning of a Legislature. They have continuing responsibility in the general field of legislative activity. The Committee name reflects their area of jurisdiction, i.e., Education, Appropriations, Health, etc.
Subcommittee	A small committee appointed by standing committee chair to research and study a bill or a problem and to report findings to the entire committee
Subcommittee	A division of a committee having a more specific area of jurisdiction.
Supermajority	Or a "qualified majority" is a requirement for a proposal to gain a specified level of support which is greater than the threshold of one have used for "majority". Usually either two thirds or four fifths of the members are either present or elected.

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Suspension of the Rules	A motion to temporarily suspend the normal rules of procedure to accommodate the handling of a particular measure. The suspension of rules typically requires a supermajority and a roll call vote.
Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR)	A Medicare policy from 1997 to 2015 that aimed to control physician payment growth by setting a target based on factors like GDP and enrollment.
Unanimous Consent	Permission granted, without objection, by either house to a member desiring to accomplish a measure without making a motion.
Veto	The action by which the President of the United States rejects a bill, returning it to Congress respectively along with a message stating his/her objections. Vetoes may be overridden by legislatures with varying degrees of support. Congress requires a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate to override a presidential veto.