



HEAL Coalition ALERT: Thoughts on a New Congressional Majority

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As pundits, politicians, and the public react to the November elections and the resulting changes in the majority of each House of Congress, many will pontificate on how agendas will change, how oversight of the Administration will increase, and how different leaders will work for or against bipartisan cooperation.

Few other than Washington insiders will look at one of the Capital's central and long-standing core constituencies – the government relations community – that has for decades worked effectively and cooperatively with Congresses run by Democrats and Republicans alike, all to the legitimate best interests of their clients and the country.

Media attention swirls around new oversight efforts aimed at the pharmaceutical and energy industries, or new disclosures about earmarks and lobby reform. Additionally, longstanding initiatives in health care, tax policy, small business support, and many others will need re-thinking to determine where the bipartisan balance exists.

The HEAL Coalition has worked to bring together sound policy compromises acceptable to key Democratic and Republican leaders alike, as part of a lobbying process that consistently advances the stability of our participant schools and their students. That process, rooted in bipartisan relationships established over decades, will again stand the test of shifting majorities, new leadership in both parties and new faces in charge of key Committees of Jurisdiction.

Democracy may not be always efficient, but it can be made to work for the betterment of all, and the HEAL Coalition stands committed to playing our role in that process.

We continue to track the changes on the four key health-related Committees (Senate Finance, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, House Energy and Commerce, and House Ways and Means), and will be providing our participant schools with additional information once the Committee and Subcommittee assignments are finalized.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information regarding the HEAL Coalition, contact Executive Director Tom Netting at (202) 626-8553.