

REDC Consortium Congressional and Federal Terminology Guide

- **ACA:** Affordable Care Act (AKA “Obamacare”); bill passed in 2010 that expanded health insurance access for individual Commercial plans and Medicaid (in some states), and required 10 essential benefits and other patient protections, including mental health and substance use disorder coverage, for any individual ACA plans, larger employer commercial plans (over 50 employees)
- **AHP:** Association Health Plan; a type of group medical insurance for smaller companies or freelancers to access health insurance savings associated with large group coverage
- **Amendment:** a proposal to alter the text of a pending bill or other measure by striking out some of it, by inserting new language, or both
- **Appropriations/Approps:** the provision of funds, through an annual act or a permanent law, for federal agencies to make payments out of the Treasury for specified purposes; the formal spending process consists of 2 steps: authorization and appropriations; Appropriations Committee is responsible for federal funding, focusing on “discretionary” funding (vs. Mandatory funding (i.e., Medicare/Medicaid entitlements))
- **Budget Reconciliation:** legislative process that expedites the passage of certain budgetary provisions; reconciliation allows the Senate to pass spending/taxation bills with 51 votes, as opposed to the typical 60 votes for passage
- **Chairman:** presiding officer of a committee or subcommittee in House or Senate that is a member of the majority party; Members of Congress cannot chair more than one committee
- **CMS:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; part of the Department of Health & Human Services
- **Constituent:** person who is a legal voter in a Representative’s Congressional District or Senator’s state
- **CO:** Commanding Officer; the officer in command of a military unit who has nearly absolute authority over the unit (within military law)

- **DHA:** Defense Health Agency; agency that supports military health care, including the TRICARE health plan
- **DOD:** Department of Defense; largest federal agency; oversees military operations, defense budget, defense policy, etc.
- **DOL:** U.S. Department of Labor; supports workers, job seekers, and retirees by promoting safe work conditions and assuring work-related benefits and rights
- **E&C:** House Energy & Commerce Committee; extremely broad in scope (E&C covers issues from health care to the Internet, from tourism to climate change)
- **The Floor:** “on the floor” means something is occurring as part of the formal session of the full Senate/House; “has the floor” means a member has been recognized to speak by the Chair
- **HASC:** House Armed Services Committee; responsible for funding and oversight of defense and military-related issues and departments
- **HELP:** Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee; oversees issues such as child labor, aging, equal employment opportunity, public health, private pension plans, and numerous other issues related to health, education, labor, and retirement
- **Hearing:** a meeting of a committee or subcommittee with the purpose of gathering testimony, information, and opinions regarding proposed legislation, to conduct an investigation, or review the operations/actions of a federal agency
- **HHS:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; supports the health of Americans by focusing on medicine, public health, and social services
- **The Hill:** Capitol Hill where Congress works
- **HRSA:** Health Resources & Services Administration; housed within HHS, HRSA focuses on bringing health care services to those in need, providing quality services, and eliminating health disparities
- **Managers Amendment:** base legislation created by the Committee Professional staff, typically by the majority, that is presented within 24 hours before markup
- **Markup:** when a committee reviews and edits a bill
- **Member:** Member of Congress
- **MHS:** Military Health System; provides health care services to active-duty military, military family members, and military retirees

- **NBPP:** Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters; yearly rule proposed by CMS that updates regulatory and financial standards relating to Medicare, Medicaid, and ACA marketplace health plans
- **NDAA:** National Defense Authorization Act; annual bill authorizing budget and expenditures of DOD
- **Ranking Member:** highest ranking (and usually longest serving) member of a committee or subcommittee and member of the minority party in Congress
- **Report Language:** a document published by the House or Senate Appropriations Committee explaining an appropriations bill and providing guidance for relevant agencies when said appropriations bill is put before the full House or Senate
- **SAMHSA:** Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration; a branch of the Department of Health & Human Services focused on behavioral health (i.e., mental health and substance abuse)
- **SASC:** Senate Armed Services Committee; Senate counterpart of HASC; oversees defense and military-related issues and departments
- **STLDI:** Short-term, Limited Duration Insurance Plans; insurance coverage to cover gaps when an individual is transitioning between coverages or plans (i.e., if a person is between jobs); lasts just under 12 months
- **W&M:** House Ways & Means Committee; chief tax-writing committee, also covers aspects of Social Security, Medicare, and other social services
- **USU:** Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; federally run science university; focuses on training and serving military health professionals