DPG/MIG INVOLVEMENT WITH LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

Category: Professional
Policy Number: P-5

POLICY

It is imperative for ADA (and members speaking on behalf of ADA) and/or Dietetic Practice Groups (DPGs)/Member Interest Groups (MIGs) to maintain a consistent message on public policy issues. Therefore, DPG/MIGs must receive prior approval from ADA’s Vice President of Policy Initiatives and Advocacy before taking any official public policy position or before making a formal statement concerning policy issues. This includes, but is not limited to, statements to members of the media and written or verbal communications to federal or state agencies or legislators. Only authorized ADA staff and designated volunteers may officially represent ADA’s policy positions.

DPG/MIG members may speak on their own behalf, or on behalf of other organizations on a public policy issue, regardless of ADA’s official position. However, members who publicly advocate or lobby on a position that is inconsistent with that of ADA are encouraged to notify the Vice President of Policy Initiatives and Advocacy of such activities.

PROCEDURE

DPG/MIG involvement in public policy may take two forms:

1. Providing input, data, sources of data, technical expertise, and opinion for official ADA statements.
   a. ADA’s Policy Initiatives and Advocacy (PIA) Team and DPG/MIGs shall monitor issues of priority to the Association. This includes, but is not limited to, actions by state and federal agencies and legislatures.
   b. PIA may request a DPG/MIG’s assistance in providing periodic reviews of ADA positions, or assistance in developing and modifying policy positions. In doing so, members of the PIA Team will work through the designated DPG/MIG Chair, Chair-elect, and/or an assigned DPG/MIG manager. These DPG/MIG leaders will be responsible for contacting members of the DPG/MIG on the need for input, data, sources of data, and technical expertise on a given issue. The DPG/MIG Chair, Chair-elect, and/or DPG/MIG manager shall transmit such information to appropriate PIA staff using (when appropriate) the following format:
      i. Statement of Purpose: Why should the issue be addressed? Why is it important to the public? Why is it important to members? How does it fit in with ADA's strategic plan and Initiatives?
ii. Background: ADA, DPG/MIG, and/or other organizations' involvement in the issue.

iii. Pros and Cons: What organizations are on which side of the issue and why?

iv. Present Status: Information on current state of regulation, legislation, etc.

v. Rationale: If inappropriate to include rationale in the issue analysis itself, a point-by-point reason for each major component of the stance must be listed.

vi. Strategy: Plans for communicating the rationale (e.g., joining coalition, press release).

c. Each DPG/MIG shall be responsible for determining the manner in which it will review and comment on a request from PIA or PIA-staffed task forces. DPG/MIGs may create internal committees or task forces that act on behalf of the entire membership of the DPG/MIG to review and respond to requests for input.

d. In special circumstances, the ADA President may appoint a task force to proactively consider issues affecting broad interests of dietetic professionals. Members of these task forces are encouraged to communicate with DPG/MIGs through the designated Chair, Chair-Elect, and/or DPG/MIG manager and solicit input for task force discussions.

e. PIA also will consult with DPG/MIGs on specific issues, sharing available informational materials and analyses regarding policy matters during the development or review of ADA’s current or future positions.

f. PIA will routinely supply DPG/MIGs with on-going information on policy matters through On the Pulse and include DPG/MIG Chairs, Chair-Elects, and/or DPG/MIG managers as recipients of Grassroots Times.

g. On behalf of the DPG/MIG, the Chair, Chair-elect, and/or DPG/MIG manager will respond regarding policy matters. Only written responses received in a timely manner will be reflected in ADA policy materials.

h. All analyses provided to PIA, task forces, or the Legislative and Public Policy Committee shall be based on the best available scientific evidence. DPG/MIG policy submissions should be representative of the view of the majority of the DPG/MIG members.

i. PIA will share final statements and documents with participating and affected DPG/MIGs and also send copies of such documents to ADA’s Practice Team.

2. Providing input to the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) on the need to amend current ADA positions and/or develop new positions on issues of interest to the DPG/MIG’s membership. This input may be in response to a request from the LPPC or PIA for information and guidance. DPG/MIGs also may petition the LPPC to review a current position, or to adopt a position on an
issue on for which ADA has none. All DPG/MIG issue analyses or position papers should be representative of the majority views of DPG/MIG members.

a. DPG/MIGs shall be responsible for monitoring areas of interest and communicating to the Vice President, PIA concerns with current ADA positions, or the need for a new position addressing developing policy issues.

b. DPG/MIGs shall prepare an issue analysis or position paper in response to a request from PIA. These issue analyses or position papers shall not be made public, nor constitute an official position of ADA, unless approved by the LPPC or ADA Board of Directors.

c. The Vice President, PIA shall forward all DPG/MIG issue analyses or position papers to the LPPC for additional review or action.

d. In the case of an opportunity to submit testimony with a short turnaround time, a modified approval process may be implemented as approved by the Vice President, PIA.

e. The LPPC is responsible for approving ADA’s stances on public policy matters. In specific instances, the LPPC may forward policy matters to the ADA Board of Directors or House of Delegates for approval. Once approved, these positions are the official ADA position.

f. A DPG/MIG may overtly support ADA’s positions. It should notify PIA of its support and work, sharing materials in a timely manner to assure their consistency with ADA materials and messages.

g. DPG/MIGs shall not publicly advocate a position on behalf of the DPG/MIG that is not consistent with official ADA positions.

h. DPG/MIGs shall not advocate a position on a policy issue for which ADA has not adopted an official position.

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   12/02
   04/08