

Background on Congressional Caucuses
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What They Do

- Provide a forum and network for Members to unite interests in pursuit of legislative goals
- Host events to highlight issues Members believe need to be addressed at a national level
- Coordinate educational opportunities for Members and staff on Capitol Hill, such as Congressional Delegation trips, or briefings
- Develop legislative priorities to be pursued by Member offices
- Can act as a single point contact for outside organizations on caucus topics
- Provide Members an opportunity to demonstrate their interest or support of a particular cause

What They Do Not Do

- Control the legislative calendar or House floor action
- Compel Members to support or cosponsor specific legislation
- Employ staff to exclusively pursue the Caucus's legislative goals

Basics

- The influence of a caucus is correlated to the size and the composition of the Membership. (e.g. Rural Health Care Caucus)
- Caucuses are useful at bringing attention to an issue that can then lead to legislation (e.g. Rep. Tancredo's Immigration Reform Caucus)
- Caucuses are generally bipartisan to address issues across the aisle and that are not supported by only one party
- Caucuses are generally operated exclusively by the chair or co-chairs of the caucus.

Funding and Resources

- Caucuses have no separate corporate or legal identity. Caucuses may not be assigned separate office space.
- Caucuses may not accept goods, funds, or services from private organizations to support the Caucus.