

Brian A. Connell

EXPERIENCE

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY (LLS) – Washington, DC

Executive Director, Federal Affairs

October 2018 – present

Senior Director, Federal Affairs

September 2014 – September 2018

Direct all aspects of federal government lobbying for the nation's second largest cancer patient non-profit—managing a cross-functional team of government affairs professionals as well as a political consulting firm

Lead all aspects of LLS's legal advocacy program, including identifying strategic opportunities to advance LLS mission goals in the courts and securing internal leadership and external partner buy-in on key amicus briefs

Identify gaps in the LLS policy agenda and develop strategies to address gaps in a timely way to ensure the organization is prepared to engage effectively on opportunities and challenges

Represent LLS in public forums and to national and local media outlets

Achieved significant legislative and regulatory victories for blood cancer patients, including an annual and monthly limit for Medicare Part D cost-sharing, a statutory requirement for clinical trial diversity planning for pivotal trials, landmark surprise billing protections in the No Surprises Act, several innovation-accelerating provisions within the 21st Century Cures Act, a framework for Medicare coverage and payment for CAR-T, critical provisions within the Childhood Cancer STAR Act and its reauthorization, and the defeat of efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act

MEDICAL IMAGING & TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE (MITA) – Washington, DC

Director, Government Relations

May 2012 – August 2014

Director, State & Federal Government Relations

January 2011 – April 2012

Led national trade association's federal government relations—crafting and implementing proactive policy development, lobbying, and public relations strategies

Attained major victories on high priority advocacy projects, including the 2014 Protecting Access to Medicare Act, the 2012 FDA Safety & Innovation Act, the 2013 High Technology Jobs Preservation Act, and the CY2014 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Payment rule

Transformed patient engagement efforts into a national “patient ambassador” network, with regular engagement through annual Capitol Hill visits, targeted district office meetings, and email campaigns

Managed strategic alliances with medical societies, national patient groups, and industry stakeholders

Concluded MITA's successful negotiations with FDA on the \$595 million Medical Device User Fee Agreement (MDUFA III), achieving significant improvements to the Agency's medical device review process

Developed original Medicare data report that reframed imaging spending and utilization trends to policymakers

Managed a \$1.36 million annual budget allocated across four political consultancies and assisted in the management of a \$1.2 million annual public relations campaign

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – Washington, DC

Legislative Director

March 2010 – December 2010

Senior Legislative Assistant

January 2009 – February 2010

Legislative Assistant

February 2007 – December 2009

Led a fast-paced, five-person legislative office for a Member of Congress representing a swing district and engaged in a U.S. Senate campaign, while also maintaining a substantial issue portfolio

Implemented successful policy strategy and outreach for major legislative initiatives, including health care reform, the 2008 financial market collapse, auto company assistance, and the Recovery Act
Coordinated introduction and passage of the Kerry-Obama-Ellsworth-Emanuel Fair Share Act (incorporated into P.L. 110-417), preventing payroll tax abuse by Defense Dept. contracting firms
Represented the Congressman to key constituents and interest groups, often in hostile environments both in DC and in the district
Reorganized several major office processes to improve consistency and staff efficiency

INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY – Evansville, IN

Field Organizer

April 2006 – November 2006

Managed extensive persuasion and GOTV operation

Achieved the largest margin of victory (22%) for a House challenger in the previous six election cycles

EDUCATION

University of Evansville - Evansville, IN

May 2006

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, *summa cum laude*

GPA, 3.91

Winner, 2006 Mark R. Simpson Academic Leadership & Integrity Award

Intern, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Spring 2005)