



Ashley B. Thompson

Senior Vice President, Public Policy Analysis & Development
American Hospital Association

Ashley Thompson is senior vice president, public policy analysis & development for the American Hospital Association (AHA), a position she has held since 2015. In this role, Ashley provides leadership, strategic direction and management in the development, articulation and advocacy of the association's policy positions. Additionally, she leads AHA's formal policy development process, which solicits input from key hospital leaders on issues related to advocacy, public policy and field leadership. Ashley has held various policy roles in the association over her 20-year tenure.

Ashley also served as Health Policy Advisor to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, where she served as policy lead for Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) on Medicare Part A issues, including those related to hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care and hospice. During her time with the Committee, she developed and drafted the Medicare provisions adopted in the *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005*, including provisions related to value-based purchasing and post-acute care payment reforms.

Additionally, Ashley spent seven years at hospitals and health systems, working in the areas of strategic planning, finance and policy at UChicago Medicine, NorthShore University HealthSystem, and Sinai Chicago. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Bucknell University and her Master's in Healthcare Administration from the University of Michigan.

ASHLEY B. THOMPSON

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2006 - Present **AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**, Washington, DC

Senior Vice President, Public Policy Analysis and Development (Nov.'15 – Present)

Lead the AHA's efforts to develop and promote public policy positions, ensuring the unique needs of hospitals and health systems are heard and addressed in the national health policy arena.

- Serve as a member of the executive management team, working closely with the SVPs in federal relations, communications and legal on priority strategic issues.
- Engage extensively with AHA Board of Trustees, hospital/health system CEOs, clinical leaders and allied hospital association executives to develop AHA's policy positions and advocacy strategy.
- Lobby executive and legislative branches at the federal level, while developing and maintaining strong relationships with senior government officials to advance the hospital agenda.
- Oversee AHA's research agenda, producing analyses such as the financial impact of COVID-19, Medicare and Medicaid underpayment, and the economic contribution of hospitals.
- Serve as expert speaker in public forums and with the press about complex and sensitive issues of national interest.
- Lead 25 policy professionals; manage a policy budget of \$9.3 million; oversee two for-profit business (coding clinic and UB-04 billing) with \$4.9 million and \$8.3 million in net margin in 2021.

Vice President and Deputy Director, Policy (Nov.'12 – Nov.'15)

Managed AHA's formal governance and policy development process, including soliciting member input on key advocacy, public policy and field leadership issues.

- Led and managed four vice presidents supervising staff in the areas of hospital finance and payment policy, quality and patient safety, data and trends analysis, and health insurance coverage policy.
- Analyzed legislative and regulatory proposals and developed public policy alternatives.
- Supervised preparation of comment letters, advisories, alerts, analytical research and reports, fact sheets, testimony and talking points.
- Represented AHA before Congress, the Administration and federal advisory panels, including HHS, CMS, FDA, ONC, and MedPAC.

Director, Policy (June'06 – Nov.'12)

Developed, articulated and advocated on broad-based health policy issues that have crosscutting implications for the association and require multiple areas of knowledge and expertise.

- In conjunction with the Board, developed *Health for Life* – a policy framework for improving health and health care in America. Numerous proposals were adopted in the Affordable Care Act of 2010.

2005-2006 **UNITED STATES SENATE**, Washington, DC

Health Policy Advisor, Committee on Finance

Policy lead for Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) on Medicare Part A issues, including those related to hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care and hospice. Key areas of focus included provider payment, quality, transparency and charity care/community benefit.

- Analyzed, developed and negotiated key Medicare provisions adopted in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, including provisions related to hospital value-based purchasing, hospital acquired infections, physician owned specialty hospitals, IRF classification criteria and post-acute care payment reforms.
- Drafted landmark bipartisan legislation on value-based purchasing (S. 1345) and physician-owned specialty hospitals (S. 1002).
- Staffed congressional hearings, drafted speeches for the senator and managed the committee's initiatives and responses to regulatory changes.

2001-2005 **AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**, Washington, DC

Senior Associate Director, Policy Development

Developed, articulated and advocated policy positions for hospitals and health systems, specifically those related to Medicare hospital inpatient and outpatient payment. Educated and informed Congress, the Administration and other policy makers on key hospital concepts and issues.

- Analyzed and developed AHA position on key policies such as wage index, geographic reclassification, occupational mix and graduate medical education.
- Composed comment letters in response to payment rules and regulations. Prepared letters, testimony for congressional committees, member advisories and other educational materials.
- Developed legislative proposals for AHA strategic initiatives, including enhancing Medicare payment for small rural hospitals and critical access hospitals.

1995-2000

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEM, Chicago, IL

Special Assistant to the President (Aug'98 - Aug'00)

Coordinated, managed and executed special projects for the president and CEO. Managed budget of \$1.5 million and work of three executive assistants.

- Composed presentations on health policy issues and analyzed impact on hospital operations.
- Examined use of technological advances to reduce hospital cost structure, improve operating efficiency and transform business processes.

Project Director, Y2K (May'98 - Feb'00)

Directed and monitored hospitals' Y2K efforts. Chaired 25 member multidisciplinary committee and managed budget of \$4.3 million. Reported to president and COO.

- Led team in developing strategy, assessing and prioritizing needs, establishing policies and procedures and implementing initiatives to prepare health system for date change.

Project Manager, Program Planning & Clinical Resource Analysis (Jul'95- May'98)

In-house project consultant to the chair/clinical leadership of pediatric, surgery and oncology care centers. Provided analytical support for business planning.

- In collaboration with consultants, developed complex financial model to assess feasibility of building a new children's hospital. Analyzed current market share, activity, payor mix and profitability by program and performed sensitivity analysis on key assumptions.
- Developed five-year business plans for pediatric hem/onc and pediatric transplant services.

1994-1995

SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM, Chicago, IL

Administrative Fellow

1993

EVANSTON HOSPITAL CORPORATION, Evanston, IL

Administrative Intern

EDUCATION

1994

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, MI

Master of Health Services Administration

Concentration: Health Services Management and Policy

1991

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY, Lewisburg, PA

Bachelor of Arts in English

PERSONAL

Married with three children

Enjoys reading, skiing, scuba diving and cooking