

# The Importance of the Surgeon's Voice in Advocacy

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## Disclosures

- No relevant disclosures

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### Burden of Cancer in Kentucky

CANCER TYPES	RISK FACTORS	HEALTH EQUITY
Kentucky is a top 5 state in incidence or mortality	Kentucky-focused exposures and other risk factors	Disparities in cancer burden
Lung	Tobacco	Geographic disparities
Colorectal	Obesity	Racial / ethnic disparities
Head & Neck	Environmental exposures	Access to screening
Cervical	Viral infections (HPV, HCV)	Poverty
Melanoma		



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### Who I/You Represent

- Faculty/Staff at the largest employer in the region
- Highly trained...likely more than everyone else in the room
- Respected subject matter expert
- We have the evidence on our side

- Be prepared
- Know your legislators
- Look for relevant experiences

- Constituent
- Retired Army Surgeon with deployment experience
- Many roles in the Commission on Cancer
- Author and Investigator
- 30 years of surgical experience
  - but you can stand on the experience of others
- Parent/Grandparent
- Cancer Survivor

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### Adventures in Advocacy

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act
- Lung Cancer Screening
- Lung Cancer Research Funding
- Biomarker Access Bill
- Enhanced access to radon testing at home and school
- Commission on Cancer Recognition
- Increasing Tobacco Control funding
- Limiting Tobacco use to adults (T21)
- PASSED
- PASSED
- PASSED
- PASSED
- Achieved
- Out of Committee
- PASSED

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### How do I justify the time to participate?

- Align your interests with the goals of your institution
  - Your program has a legislative liaison – be on the same page
  - Do not get ‘over your skis’ with your institution
    - Cancer Center Director
    - Department leadership
- Each of these efforts has been highlighted in our NCI Site Visit
  - Community Impact
  - Policy Impact
- Visibility has value
  - Institution should recognize that

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### Thank you

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