

B the Change: Our New Advocacy Platform

This year, we launched *B the Change*, a grassroots advocacy initiative, focused on engaging and mobilizing patient, provider, and community advocates in raising awareness and increasing support for hepatitis B among policymakers. Our B the Change Action Center is an online platform for providing hepatitis B advocacy updates, resources, and calls to action.



169 MESSAGES SENT TO CONGRESS AND OTHER POLICYMAKERS



543 PETITION SIGNERS AND 203 COMMENTS



343 NEW SUBSCRIBERS



1,232 TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS

B the Change Week of Action

We received more than **100** entries from around the world for our [B the Change Advocacy Challenge](#) – a virtual week of action led by the HBF and HBU for World Hepatitis Day. Advocates reached out to Members of Congress about hepatitis B policy priorities, and shared hepatitis B information and resources with their communities. Overall, the B the Change Advocacy Challenge generated more than **26,000** social media impressions.

76

Hill Meetings

12

Comment Letters

31

Sign-on Letters

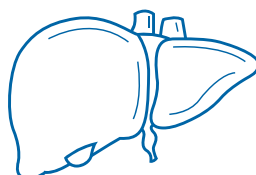
Advocacy Wins

Increased Funding for Viral Hepatitis



HBF coordinated with Congressional Champions on two sign-on letters that helped lead to an increase of \$5 million for hepatitis programs at CDC in the House FY22 LHHS Appropriations bill. The accompanying report included [language](#) advocated for by HBF that urges HHS, NIH, and CDC to adopt funding and policy priorities to advance the mission of finding a cure and better treatments for hepatitis B, and fund the creation of a Center of Public Health Excellence focused on hepatitis B elimination efforts.

Reintroduction of the LIVER Act



This legislation, endorsed by over 50 organizations, takes bold steps to increase investments in research, prevention, and awareness activities to address liver cancer, hepatitis B, and other liver diseases.

Achieving Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination



The hepatitis B vaccine is now [recommended for all adults](#) aged 19-59 by the CDC. HBF coordinated discussions with providers and organizations, [online petition](#), an [organizational sign-on letter](#), [Congressional recognition](#) for the importance of an updated recommendation, and dozens of direct comments to the ACIP committee.



HEP B UNITED PARTNERS IN ACTION

California: CA AB 789 (Hepatitis B and C Screening and Linkage to Care Bill)

As a result of efforts led by the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University and SF Hep B Free - Bay Area, California became the first state to [enact legislation \(Assembly Bill 789\)](#) requiring primary care clinics to offer adults a voluntary hepatitis B and C screening test according to the latest USPSTF recommendations and to provide or refer for care and treatment according to AASLD practice guidelines for those who test positive. We coordinated with Asian Liver Center to send action alerts to California advocates and submit letters of support for AB 789.



Hawaii: Hepatitis Elimination Planning

Hep Free Hawaii led the development of [Hep Free 2030: The Hawai'i Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-2030](#). This community-led effort with input from over 100 different people is a state-wide strategic plan to eliminate hepatitis A, B, and C in Hawaii. The state's elimination priorities are awareness and education, data for decision-making, equity in everything, advocacy at all levels, and access to services.



Hepatitis B advocates are also working on hepatitis elimination planning in [Pennsylvania](#) and [New York City](#), among other jurisdictions.

Pennsylvania: PA HB 103 (Criminalization Bill)

We sent an [action alert](#) and submitted a [joint letter](#) with other organizations in opposition to a discriminatory bill ([House Bill 103](#)) that criminalizes communicable diseases including hepatitis B by creating a new offense for throwing, tossing, spitting, or expelling saliva or bodily fluid or material which comes into contact with a law enforcement officer. Although the bill passed in the Pennsylvania House, it did not advance through the Senate.



Washington: State Hepatitis B Education and Outreach Funding

Thanks to the successful advocacy efforts of HBU coalition partners in Washington state led by community leader Nadine Shiroma, the Washington State Department of Health received dedicated funding to implement hepatitis B outreach and education programs for communities highly impacted including Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and African immigrants and refugees.



State Advocacy Trainings

We are collaborating with HBU partners around the country to co-host a series of regional advocacy trainings focused on Getting Started in State Advocacy. These virtual workshops will provide a foundation for organizations and advocates interested in getting more involved in advocacy efforts at the state level. The first two trainings were held in October 2021 in partnership with Team HBV and the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA), and the next two are scheduled for January 2022.



Voices for Treatment

B the Voice: Treatment Access

We launched a survey to collect treatment access stories, as part of the B the Voice Story Bank. These stories will help raise awareness around barriers to accessing affordable hepatitis B treatments and support future advocacy efforts to put an end to these discriminatory practices.

Preventing Liver Cancer By Increasing Access to Hepatitis B Treatments

We hosted a [webinar](#) in October to discuss discriminatory methods utilized by insurance companies that may discourage people living with hepatitis B from choosing an insurance plan, the role of copay accumulators in treatment access, tools and resources to access affordable hepatitis B treatment, and actions that patients can take to decrease the burden of adverse drug tiering.



HBU on the Hill

National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day

In recognition of National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day (April 30th), HBF and HBU co-hosted a virtual congressional briefing, *Advancing Health Equity through Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination*, with other national partners. Topics included challenges to vaccinating at-risk communities and the need for universal adult hepatitis B vaccination recommendations.

Viral Hepatitis Policy Summit and Hill Day

HBF and HBU co-hosted a [virtual Policy Summit and Hill Day](#) with NVHR and NASTAD in February. Over 100 advocates from around the country participated and met with three dozen Congressional offices to share viral hepatitis policy priorities.

Learn More!

Click the links below to access our archived advocacy documents.

[Comments and Letters](#)

[Webinars](#)



Get Involved!

Join [B the Change](#) for advocacy updates and action alerts.

Contact us at advocate@hepb.org.



Hep B United is Growing!



Hep B United Partners in 23 States and 29 Cities

50 National and Local Coalition Members with > 1,000 local partners

Join the coalition!

Reach out to connect@hepbunited.org for more information.