

Hep B United Policy & Advocacy 2017 Year in Review

Hep B United Summit and Advocacy Day

- July 26-28: Hep B United held its [5th Annual Summit and Advocacy Day](#) in Washington, DC, celebrating five years as a national coalition dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B. The summit is the largest convening of hepatitis B community leaders from around the country with over 80 partners representing patient advocates, local and state health agencies, national organizations, community-based hepatitis B coalitions, and federal partners.
- During the Advocacy Day on July 26, Hep B United partners met with more than 35 Congressional offices to discuss the need for increased federal resources to address and eliminate hepatitis B. A Congressional reception was also held that evening to introduce the Hepatitis B Foundation's storytelling campaign, "[#justB: Real People Sharing Their Stories of Hepatitis B.](#)"
- For more information, check out the summit [Storify](#), [blog](#), [report](#), [pictochart](#), and [presentations](#)!



Addressing Hepatitis B and the Opioid Epidemic

- July: Developed new fact sheet, [Hepatitis B and the Opioid Epidemic](#)
- August 29: [HBU Comments on President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis' Draft Interim Report](#) – Hep B United submitted this comment letter to the [President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis](#) regarding their [Draft Interim Report](#). The letter provides recommendations for ensuring that the federal response to the opioid crisis includes strategies to address the rising rates of hepatitis B and C in the U.S., largely tied to injection drug use.

Eliminating Perinatal Hepatitis B Transmission

- August 9: [HBU Comments on USPSTF Draft Research Plan on Screening for HBV Infection Among Pregnant Women](#) – Hep B United submitted this comment letter to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) in response to their draft research plan to review the evidence for HBV screening in pregnant women.

Hepatitis B Cure Campaign

- May 24: Congressional Briefing on [Conquering Hepatitis B Now! A Roadmap for a Cure](#) (Washington, DC) – The Hepatitis B Foundation [launched its national Hep B Cure Campaign](#) which features a consensus research agenda that outlines top scientists’ priority research recommendations for hepatitis B and liver cancer. The cure research agenda was highlighted at a Congressional briefing in May, hosted by the Foundation in collaboration with the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Senator Mazie Hirono, the [National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable](#), and the [Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations](#).



- July: Developed new one-pager, [The Hepatitis B Cure Campaign Overview](#)
- July: Updated fact sheets, [Finding a Cure for Hepatitis B: More NIH Research is Needed](#) and [Finding a Cure and Better Treatments for Liver Cancer: Focused Liver Cancer Research at NCI is Needed](#)

Implementing Strategies to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis

- January: Signed on to a Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership letter to the Trump Administration, providing recommendations to move the nation closer toward elimination of hepatitis B and C
- June 15: Congressional Briefing on Hepatitis B and C Elimination (Washington, DC) – Hep B United co-hosted a briefing in June about the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report, [A National Strategy for the Elimination of Hepatitis B and C: Phase Two Report](#), which provided a number of recommended actions needed to ultimately eliminate hepatitis B and C in the U.S. by 2030.
- July: Updated fact sheet, [CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis: Greater Focus on Hepatitis B Needed](#)
- December: Signed on to a [letter to the White House](#), calling for the Trump Administration and Congress “to invest in the Department of Health and Human Services [Viral Hepatitis Action Plan](#) and to commit in words and action to the elimination of HBV and HCV in the U.S. by 2030”

The U.S. can Eliminate Hepatitis B & C by 2030
Learn How...

Please join us for a congressional luncheon briefing on new opportunities to eliminate two deadly diseases and curb the opioid epidemic.

Thursday, June 15, 2017 | Noon-1:30 p.m.
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 902
Lunch will be provided

PRESENTED BY:



SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH
- John Ward, MD
- Anna Lok, MD
- Stacey Trooskin, MD, PhD

RSVP: INFO@NVHR.ORG

Protecting Access to Affordable Health Care

- March: Signed on to a comment letter to HHS regarding a proposed Market Stabilization Rule
- August: Signed on to [Market Stability Letter to Congress](#) urging Congress to move past attempts to repeal the ACA and cut the Medicaid program and turn its attention towards bipartisan policies that would safeguard the stability of health insurance markets for 2018 and beyond
- March 22: [HBU Letter Opposing the American Health Care Act](#) – Hep B United drafted this sign-on letter and sent it to targeted members of the U.S. House of Representatives
 - March 24: Sent a follow-up [Action Alert](#) to Hep B United partners, urging them to call or email their representatives to ask them to vote NO on the American Health Care Act
- June 12: Action Alert: “Take Action to #ProtectPrevention on June 15” (urging advocates to participate in Trust for America’s Health’s Virtual Advocacy Day in support of the Prevention and Public Health Fund)
- June 22: Action Alert: “Protect Medicaid and the ACA – Prevent Hep B” (urging advocates to call their Senators and ask them to oppose the American Health Care Act and any efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act)
- June 28: Action Alert: “Join me in the fight to protect our care!” (featuring a personalized message from a hep B patient, reinforcing the need for advocates to call or email their Senators and ask them to oppose any legislation that would repeal the Affordable Care Act)
- July: Developed new fact sheet, [Key Concerns About ACA Repeal and its Impact on Hepatitis B](#)
- September 15: Action Alert: “Ask Congress to Fix the Health Center Funding Cliff”
- September 20: Action Alert: “[Tell Your Senators to Oppose the Latest ACA Repeal Attempt](#)”
- September 27: Action Alert: “[Urge Your Senators to Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill](#)”
- September: [Letter supporting the COFA Act](#), which would restore Medicaid eligibility to Compact of Free Associations (COFA) communities
- September: Signed on to a [letter urging Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposal](#) to eliminate affordable quality health care for millions of Americans by gutting the Affordable Care Act; slash federal funding and destroy Medicaid by turning its funding into per capita caps; eliminate the Medicaid expansion; and leave tens of millions of people in the U.S. significantly worse off than under current law
- October: Signed on to a [TFAH/National REACH Coalition letter](#) to the leadership of the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittees supporting funding for the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program
- November: Signed on to a [TFAH letter](#) to the Senate Finance and HELP Committees urging swift bipartisan action to reauthorize several important safety net programs without using the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset

Coalition Membership

- [Adult Vaccine Access Coalition](#)
- [Deadliest Cancers Coalition](#) (via the Hepatitis B Foundation)
- [Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership](#)
- [Medicaid Coalition](#)
- [National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable](#)