

## **KEY 2022 ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Argentum Advocacy Fund amplifies Argentum's voice, empowers advocacy, and makes a profound impact on Capitol Hill. Just this year, the Argentum Advocacy Fund contributed to efforts that the senior living industry has never before achieved:

- For the first time, bipartisan legislation was introduced in the U.S. Congress that creates the largest federal investment in our industry in the nation's history. The SENIOR Act would provide \$10 billion in relief dollars to assisted living caregivers and invest \$1.25 billion in creating a more sustainable long-term care workforce.
- For the first time, secured language to help transform existing education and training programs to develop the workforce needed to care for the aging population. Specifically, it urges the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, to support the expansion of the workforce to care for a rapidly aging U.S. population and provide home and community-based services to older adults and people with disabilities through education and training grant programs, as well as traditional and nontraditional apprenticeship programs. Additional workforce funding includes:
  - \$285 million to expand opportunities through apprenticeships grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and other arrangements;
  - \$65 million for Strengthening Community College Training Grants; and
  - \$1.760 billion for Job Corps
- Developed an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) [toolkit](#) for the \$195 billion state relief fund that includes a [template letter to the governor](#) to request funds, the COVID-19 impact on the industry by state, and examples of recent distributions of funds. This toolkit helped secure more than \$400 million in state relief.
- Formed and expanded the bipartisan House 21st Century Long-Term Care Caucus, led by Representatives Bryan Steil (R-WI) and Annie Kuster (D-NH). The caucus is effectively a counterpart to the Senate Aging Committee and will identify and address long-term care issues and implement solutions to best serve older Americans and all who receive services. It will focus on promoting legislation relating to LTC financing, affordability, and workforce shortages. Argentum has worked directly with lawmakers to grow the caucus membership and influence.
- Secured an increase of \$226 million for Alzheimer's research and \$500 million increase for Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to accelerate the pace of scientific breakthroughs for diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and cancer. Argentum directly advocated for increased federal funding for Alzheimer's Disease and dementia related research and associated initiatives. Our advocacy efforts comprised of meetings with members of Congress including Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and joining advocacy efforts of leading organizations such as Alzheimer's Association, Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease, US Against Alzheimer's, and the American Seniors Housing Association.

- Argentum’s direct discussions with Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and his staff regarding senior living provider needs post Hurricanes Ian and Fiona have yielded an appropriation of \$858 million to help communities and businesses in impacted areas through The Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loans Program. These loans will help businesses, including senior living operators, to repair or replace disaster-damaged property including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. An appropriation of \$5 billion is targeted to The Federal Emergency Management Administration’s Disaster Relief Fund to bolster Hurricanes Ian and Fiona recovery efforts.
- Facilitated the bipartisan and bicameral introduction of the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act, legislation that would provide access to assisted living communities through a pilot program.
- Consistently opposed a permanent healthcare standard from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), including the submission of [public comments](#) and [testifying](#) at a hearing to state opposition to the rule. Additionally, Argentum’s advocacy efforts resulted in more than 100 of the 144 total comments submitted in the last round coming from assisted living advocates urging the agency not to subject communities to the new rules.
- Obtained an additional two-year extension of the Medicare rules allowing expanded access to telehealth services and for employers to offer telehealth services pre-deductible to those with a high deductible health plan paired with a health savings account. Argentum joined more than 350 organizations is urging Congress to extend these telehealth provisions.
- Secured hundreds of millions of federal COVID relief dollars and state COVID relief dollars for our senior living communities across the nation.
- Gained key commitments from U.S. House and Senate leadership that our industry’s unique needs are understood, our care is valued, and our industry will be protected.

### **ADDITIONAL RECENT ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Over 400 Congressional meetings, including with House & Senate leadership.
- Meetings with the White House, Department of Labor, Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicaid & Medicare, Office of Management & Budget, and Veterans Affairs.
- 4 Congressional letters with nearly 170 cumulative signatures.
- Monthly Argentum Advocates (AA) briefings and nearly 3,000 advocate sign ups.
- Over 7,000 personalized messages, calls, and letters to Congressional offices.
- Argentum reinvigorated the Women in Leadership (WIL) program to provide a platform showcasing top talent, helping women leaders create and strengthen a network of allies to champion their work and providing opportunities for professional growth and development.



- Supported \$5 billion for federal financing of new and existing senior living communities in the House-passed FY 2023 government funding process.
- Bipartisan Congressional briefing on the SENIOR Act and the importance of assisted living, in coordination with Representatives Trahan (D-MA) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA).
- Hosted 2022 Public Policy Institute in Washington, DC and coordinated dozens of in-person Congressional meetings for the first time since the pandemic.
- Prevented the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) from being used as a pay-for in the Senate infrastructure negotiations.
- August 2021 campaign calling on HHS to "Release the PRF"
- Late 2021 campaign asking President Biden and Capitol Hill, "Don't Leave Us Behind, Again"
- Secured priority 1A for vaccines for both senior living residents and staff likely saving countless lives, sent hundreds of thousands of rapid antigen tests directly to communities to better track and mitigate the spread of the virus.
- Secured eligibility for senior living in the Provider Relief Fund and at least four distributions for eligible entities, totaling more than \$1 billion in direct relief.
- Worked directly with the Health Resources & Services Administration to process and pay over 80% of senior living provider claims.
- Supported the state regulatory model to maintain strong state oversight balancing resident safety and choice and continue to prevent onerous federal oversight and regulation.
- Led a 50-state initiative to establish liability protections for workers and facilities based on our model executive order; nearly half of all states adopted some level of protections.
- Op-eds published in local and national media outlets.
- Multiple coalition letters among industry and association partners.