The 116th Congress is underway and healthcare policy, once again, expects to be a focal point on Capitol Hill. More specifically, efforts to overhaul diagnostic testing regulations are already afoot in the House and Senate. ASHI is committed to ensuring that your voice and expertise in the fields of immunogenetics, histocompatibility, and transplant science play a central role in shaping the federal policies that most impact your operations and reimbursement.

In the spirit of that commitment, ASHI has partnered with Polsinelli, a government affairs firm with a longstanding track record of developing, implementing, and shaping healthcare policy at the federal level. Led by former Congressman Alan Wheat (D-MO), Polsinelli Public Policy Group members Tim Casey and James Fleischmann have already begun working to elevate ASHI’s presence and influence on Capitol Hill.

Collectively, Polsinelli has extensive experience and bipartisan relationships on Capitol Hill, with the Administration, and across the federal agencies, including within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In addition to Polsinelli’s advocacy experience, the firm’s broader legal practice -which includes a dedicated FDA legal practice group- was named ‘best health care law firm’ in 2018 by U.S. News & World Report.

ASHI’s partnership with Polsinelli comes at a critical juncture, as lawmakers and regulators seek to reform diagnostic testing regulations and calls for further cuts in laboratory reimbursement rates continue. Already, we have engaged key lawmakers involved in the diagnostic reform initiative, emphasized the importance of laboratory developed tests (LDT) used in support of transplantation, and warned against more restrictive regulation on these essential, individualized diagnostic tests.

Importantly, through our outreach with the House and Senate, we have obtained advance copies of the draft legislation and have been invited to provide ASHI’s feedback ahead of the bill’s introduction. Polsinelli is working closely with ASHI leadership to formulate comments, advocating for a more favorable regulatory framework for transplantation associated LDTs. Over the past month, we’ve also identified and communicated with like-minded stakeholders in order to elevate ASHI’s profile and strengthen its position.

As you can see, our partnership is already helping to secure a seat for ASHI at the table for critical conversations. We are thrilled to be working with Polsinelli to amplify ASHI’s voice and expertise at this important time. We will be sure to update you on new developments as we continue working to favorably shape federal policies that impact our profession and operations directly.