

Why political giving must matter to psychologists?

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is now preparing for another round of political campaigns. This year all 100 seats in the House of Representatives and 19 of 38 seats in the Senate are up for election in 2018. This means that political action committees (PACs), representing a variety of healthcare professions (medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, etc.) and those in the healthcare industry, will be out advocating for their members. During the last election in 2016, KPA-PAC had just re-formed but was able to quickly rally making bipartisan contributions to legislators who had demonstrated their commitment to psychology, psychologists, and to mental health issues we value. Compared with other PACs in Kentucky, our PAC ranked 7th out of 24 healthcare PACs in 2016. While not a bad start, it is the just beginning. WE must work hard in 2018 to become a STRONG voice in Frankfort!

Why contribute to the KPA-PAC?

Kentucky psychologists are directly impacted by laws developed and by funding allocated by our elected officials. The financial support provided by KPA-PAC helps to elect more candidates supportive of our values and agenda. Our PAC contributes to candidates and incumbents who believe in access to psychological services for everyone in Kentucky. Campaigns are expensive and PAC contributions assist candidates in their election or re-election efforts, keeping legislators friendly to mental health issues in office.

What are the top reasons to give?

* Ensure mental health issues and psychology are valued as legislators decide:

what to fund, at what level to fund, and what is cut from the budget

* Some healthcare profession(s) will be **heard** by legislators, will it be PSYCHOLOGY?
* Can WE, as a profession, afford to be marginalized? To name a few key issues: When it comes to funding affecting access to behavioral health services, adequate reimbursement of services, protect our licensing laws and uphold protections against allowing non-psychologists to deliver unique psychological services, support legislation that improves health equity for underserved populations. etc. (For more info on 2018 KPA Legislative Priorities see the PAC website listed below).
* So we need **YOU**, because **together, especially in large numbers, we can make a difference!**

How to Contribute?

Either by personal check or personal credit card - For details on mailing a check or submitting an

online contribution please go to https://[www.kpapac.org](http://www.kpapac.org)

Submitted by Joe Edwards, Psy.D., Co-chair of the KPA-PAC