

**Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus:
Q&A For NSSTA Members**

Q). What is a Congressional Caucus?

A). A Congressional Caucus is an informal organization made up of Members of Congress who are determined to enhance awareness among all Members of Congress on a particular issue, project or program. The new Structured Settlements Caucus will be focused on educating Members of Congress on the importance of structured settlements to people with serious injuries. The Caucus can also be used to pursue common legislative objectives.

Q). As a NSSTA Member am I allowed to join the Congressional Caucus?

A). No. Only elected Members of Congress may join the Caucus.

Q). Can anyone organize a Congressional Caucus?

A). No. Only Members of Congress can organize a Caucus and again, only Members of Congress can join a Caucus. Also, every Caucus must be open to all Members of Congress.

Q). What can NSSTA members do to support the establishment of the new Caucus?

A). NSSTA members should contact their own Member of Congress and encourage them to join the new Caucus. NSSTA members should identify key staffers who work for Members of Congress to promote the Caucus. Calls and emails to Congressional offices from constituents have a powerful impact on Members of Congress.

Q). Are there rules that govern the establishment of a Caucus?

A). Yes. The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration prescribes certain rules for Congressional Member Organizations. For example:

- Every Caucus must submit a request to the House Committee on House Administration for approval to establish a Caucus.

- A statement of purpose must be drafted and approved.
- The names of Congressional staffers assigned to work on Caucus business must be submitted.

Q). How can the structured settlements industry support the Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus?

A). Our industry can meet with Members of Congress and Congressional staff assigned to work on the Caucus to promote legislation that would enhance structured settlements. We can also meet with Members and staff to produce materials designed to educate Members of Congress on the value and importance of structured settlements.

Q). Are there any restrictions on what NSSTA or NSSTA members can do to support the Caucus?

A). Yes, there are restrictions. NSSTA and structured settlement industry members are not allowed to provide any funds or services to the Caucus for organization or management purposes.

Q). Are there any requirements that a Caucus be Bipartisan?

A). No, but all successful Caucus have Members of Congress from both political parties. In fact, the strongest Caucus organizations have a Republican and a Democrat serving as Caucus Co-Chairs.

Q). How do Members of Congress find information about a Caucus and make decisions about joining a Caucus?

A). Once a Caucus has been approved by the House Committee on Administration, Caucus organizers are allowed to:

- Utilize Congressional staff and Congressional office financial resources to support/assist the Caucus.
- Prepare materials related to Caucus issues for dissemination.
- Use internal Congressional communications—inside mail, email, phones and fax.
- Use official Congressional web sites for Caucus issues.

Q). Is there a role for other organizations to help support the Caucus?

A). Yes. NSSTA should work with insurance, disability, legal and health organizations to build awareness and support for the Caucus.

Q). Will the Caucus ever hold meetings? Will the public be allowed to attend/participate?

A). Yes. The Caucus is planning a series of educational forums for Members of Congress and Congressional staff to highlight the fact that structured settlements represent a highly successful tool of public policy that allows injured victims and their families to live with dignity, economic security and respect. The first meeting of the Caucus is being planned right now and will include structured settlement annuitants explaining the importance of their structured settlements to Members of Congress. NSSTA members will be allowed to participate in these forums.

Q). How will NSSTA members find out about Caucus activities, meetings and events?

A). Caucus Members and staffers will provide reports and updates to all Members of Congress using inside mail and email on Capitol Hill. NSSTA will work with Congressional staff on all Caucus communications and forward these updates and reports to all NSSTA members and industry partners.