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I believe that many AAN members do not fully appreciate the prospect of spending a year as the Neurology Public Policy Fellow. There are so many occasions for learning and expanding your horizons.

- As an American citizen, it is an invaluable opportunity to observe and participate in democracy at work. My perspective on the legislative process and the significance of advocacy was completely changed in the course of my year in the House of Representatives. Yes, the day to day work of public policy and the partisanship can be frustrating. But, the power that constituent groups can have if they form coalitions and succeed in communicating their message is remarkable.
- As a physician, I gained a new perspective on the role of federal regulations in the practice of our specialty. At the end of the day, we basically administer the care that our government will reimburse. And there are surprisingly few physicians and other health care professionals involved in the legislative and regulatory decision-making. There is an urgent need for more physicians to speak the language on “the hill” and be able to communicate our messages about the practice of Neurology effectively.