

Energy Medicine in Politics

By Kitty Kelly, HTCP

Energy Medicine in politics? Absolutely! “We The People” have a representative democracy that depends on our INVOLVEMENT. Our participation is what makes the government reflective of our ideals. Involvement is more than just voting for your favorite politician. It includes staying informed about issues and communicating with your representatives about the issues that really matter to you.

Politicians are very interested in their constituents. After all, “We the People” vote and contribute to send them to Washington and keep them there.

Cynicism about government has become cliché. There’s plenty written about lobbyists manipulating the legislative agenda, and industry executives moving into governmental regulatory positions related to their industry and back again into industry executive management, a kind of ‘revolving door’ of influence. What does a lobbyist really do?

This is the fundamental principle behind lobbying. A lobbyist is simply someone who facilitates getting a message to the people in our government who can do something about a particular issue. Lobbyists stay current on which politicians are in key positions to impact particular types of legislation, and they develop access to these politicians for their clients. In other words, they find out who the decision makers are and they get to know them.

The ‘revolving door’ between leadership positions in a particular industry and leadership positions in the agency that regulates that industry is a reflection of the fact that industry leaders are the ones with the most knowledge about their industry and,

thus, the most likely to have the skill and contacts to be good regulators.

This is where there is an opportunity for Energy Medicine practitioners and professionals. Becoming known to your elected officials as an Energy Medicine expert is the first step to becoming a trusted resource. There are specific things that everyone can do to reach our elected officials at all levels, and we can touch on a few below, but simply moving from the unknown to the known begins to build your influence.

Now let’s get back to energy medicine in politics. Do you think your representatives in the House and Senate know about energy medicine? Do you think they know who to call to find out about energy medicine?

Some of them probably have heard something, either favorable or unfavorable, about it. Hopefully some of them have even had experience with Healing Touch. But, I doubt that many of them know who to call if they want more information about energy medicine and Healing Touch.

Think of all the legislative efforts that go on with the dietary supplement industry. The pharmaceutical industry wants our government to regulate supplements like drugs are regulated. And, the health food community wants access to herbs and vitamins without substantial regulation. The pharmaceutical industry has a lot of money and lots of lobbyists. So, why do you think we still have access to supplements? It’s because the health food industry also has lobbyists and health food consumers who are active in signing petitions and contacting their representatives about the value of over the counter easy access to supplements. They are using their voice.

They ensure that their interests are included in legislation that may become laws governing their business, both industries are constantly actively engaged in building relationships with members of congress and educating them about potential impacts of the legislation they are writing and voting on.

The larger and more mainstream Healing Touch becomes, the more likely it is that we will be included specifically along with other complimentary and alternative practitioners in legislative language that shows up in bills, some of which eventually become laws. All it takes to include us is for language as simple as “and Healing Touch” or “and energy medicine” to be added to the wording of a bill.

Congress passes very vague laws. Those laws give power to regulatory agencies like the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) or whoever regulates a particular activity. The bureaucrats in those agencies are the ones who eventually tell us what we can and can't do. So, the addition of a very few words in a law expands the scope of authority of a regulator and then the regulator decides what needs to happen in that specific field. This can include things like reporting requirements, licensing requirements, legality of touch rules and educational criteria for practicing in a particular field.

If we found that we were included in legislation in a way that might impact us negatively, we could get our own champion! We could find a different congresswoman/man who is willing to sponsor language to either oppose the language that is detrimental to us or convince the bill's sponsor that if the detrimental language is included it could jeopardize the passage of the original bill into law. If the original lobbyist and/or congresswoman/man gets worried that expanding the bill to include energy medicine would jeopardize the passage of the original bill they will oppose adding the language. It's all about finding allies who for varying reasons may share our interests.

It's not really necessary to hire a lobbyist to identify allies. We can be our own lobbyists. Using Healing Touch again as an example, we may be able to identify elected officials who would be willing to be our champions. Among all the elected officials in state and federal government it's very likely there are some who have either benefited from energy medicine or know someone who has. These are the people who are most likely to be open

to learning more. The best way to educate them is with case studies and testimonials. When they hear about constituents who experience real benefits they will listen. Congresswomen/men are so busy and they get so much e-mail (much of it from lobbyists) that they filter everything giving high priority to messages from the people in their district, their voters.

When constituents visit Washington they find that their Congresswomen/men's staff is genuinely glad to see someone from their home district and interested in hearing what's on their mind. Occasionally it is possible to even set up a meeting directly with our elected representatives. When this isn't possible, making an appointment with a staff member is an excellent alternative. These staff members play a very important role. They are involved in listening to constituents and reading and researching proposed legislation so they can advise their bosses about the pros and cons of voting for specific bills. They are valuable allies and advocates. And, they are grateful to know who to call if they have more questions after a meeting or later when they notice language in a bill that might impact a particular group.

Congresswomen/men and their staff members only hear from a relative few of their constituents compared to the large number of people they represent. When they hear from their staff about Healing Touch helping voters find relaxation, relief from pain, decreased hospital stays and improved wound healing, they may become interested in championing Healing Touch, should the need ever arise.

By becoming involved in our legislative process we also bring another important influence to government. This is the heart centered healing approach we strive to maintain in all aspects of our lives. The more heart centered energy reaches our decision makers, the more this energy becomes an integral part the workings of our government.

If you'd like to get more involved:

- Click on the links below to learn more.
- If you are in Washington stop in to the offices of your Representatives and Senators and just say Hi!
- Go to the local office of your Congresswoman/man and

meet the local staff. It's so important to build relationships. At the local level you may even have the opportunity to offer treatments for staff as the ultimate way of educating them on the value of Healing Touch.

- Check out what other organizations in the complimentary alternative arena are asking us to write our congressmen about. We may have interests in those efforts.

Resources:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/> - This is the Library of Congress site which is the most thorough account of what's going on in the federal government. Here is where you find a bill's sponsors, language, amendments and what committee currently has it. It's most useful if you know about a specific piece of legislation and want to track what is going on with it.

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml> – This is the site for finding out who your representatives are and their most accurate contact information. You can also follow what is going on in your state government by clicking on 'State Government' on the upper left of the page under the heading "By Organization."

About the author:



Kitty Kelly's interest in governmental activities began when she was a member of a Political Action Group during her insurance career. Throughout her career, she maintained an interest in what was going on in Washington, but it wasn't until she visited her representatives and their staffs in Washington that she realized the substantial role that individuals play in the process of keeping government informed and responsive to their constituents. She hopes that when you read this article you'll renew your commitment to participate in our government's ongoing process of representing the will, hopes and dreams of the people that make up the United States of America.

Kitty is a Healing Touch Certified Practitioner. She has a BA and an MBA from the University of Colorado. She is trained in several energy medicine modalities and holds professional property and casualty insurance designations. Kitty is also the Subject Matter Expert for Healing Touch Program's National Accreditation Campaign.

She lives in Colorado with her husband, John.