



THE NATIONAL GROUP

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



About Us

The National Group, LLP is one of Washington's premier lobbying firms, providing a full array of government relations consulting services to our non-profit, for-profit and municipal clients. While our capabilities in Washington are broad, we specialize in pursuing and securing federal funding for universities, colleges, hospitals, state and local governments, small businesses, corporations and non-profit organizations through the annual spending bills that fund the agencies of the federal government, as well as through federal agency grant processes.

Founded in January 2001, The National Group brought together a bipartisan group of government relations professionals with extensive experience, exceptional contacts and an unsurpassed depth and breadth of understanding of how things get done in Washington.

Our clients will attest to the fact that our experience and accomplishments on behalf of our clients are unrivaled. In fact, over the past 16 years, The National Group has established itself as one of the most effective and successful lobbying firms in Washington. In its first year in existence, The National Group was recognized as a 'lobbying firm to watch' by, Influence On-Line, an important Washington-based lobbying industry journal. Since then, the firm's work has been highlighted in Congressional Quarterly, Roll Call, The Hill and various other respected industry publications and major newspapers.

PRACTICE AREAS

Education

For nearly 30 years, The National Group's partners have represented dozens of colleges and universities, large and small, from every part of the country. Whether representing community colleges, liberal arts colleges, land grant or other major research universities, The National Group has been one of the most effective advocates in Washington for policy and funding decisions affecting higher learning for individual institutions or for higher education as a whole. Led by Vince Versage who helped pioneer modern day higher education lobbying in Washington, The National Group's Education Practice stands head and shoulders over the competition.



Healthcare

With the continued implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), healthcare will remain the dominant focus of the 113th and 114th Congresses. All entities in the healthcare arena (hospitals, providers, clinical laboratories, medical device companies, pharmaceutical companies, the insurance industry, and others) are being impacted by the myriad of new requirements, policies and regulations. Given the enormous challenges and opportunities that the implementation of this massive new system will continue to present, every affected organization, association and trade group needs expert counsel in Washington to make sure their interests are protected. The National Group is recognized as one of Washington's most effective firms in the representation of hospitals, health systems and other healthcare-related interests in Congress, HHS and CMS.



Defense

The National Group represents large corporations such as **Lockheed Martin**, **Boeing** and **General Dynamics** to advance and protect major systems and weapons programs through the defense authorization and appropriations bills on Capitol Hill and directly with the Pentagon. Whether salvaging the Seawolf program, maintaining production of the F-16, F-22, F-35 and C-17, funding a hydrological satellite system or establishing long term university research relationships, The National Group has the experience, expertise and contacts to effectively represent both large and small clients to navigate and work with DOD.



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Research & Development Funding

The National Group has a long and successful record of securing funding for cutting edge research and development having secured hundreds of millions of dollars for its university, independent research organization and private sector clients over the past three decades.

We also help form long term research partnerships between our clients and other entities for collaboration on important research initiatives that support key objectives at federal agencies such as the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Energy and independent agencies like NASA, NSF, NOAA and OSTP. We are expert at pursuing funding in the areas of:



Nanotechnology; Life cycle engineering and sustainability for vehicles and weapons systems; Transportation; Cutting edge Homeland Security technologies; Remote Sensing; Military textiles; Medical technologies; Systems and Composites for long duration manned space flights; Optoelectronics; Bioinformatics and many, many others.

Whether for basic research, applied research, development, technology transfer or direct sales of technology products to the government, The National Group has the experience and know-how to assist you in securing the funding you need to take your technology organization to the next level.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security is one of the most expansive and diverse Departments in the federal government and The National Group has the experts and expertise to guide you through this labyrinth of obstacles and opportunity .

We have assembled a team of lobbyists and Senior Advisors who are intimately familiar with the operations and programs of the various agencies that comprise DHS. We also know the decision-makers from the program manager level to the Department's highest echelon and offer our clients access to the inside information they need and the people they need to influence in order to achieve their objectives.



We have an enviable track record of success representing clients with policy, operational and funding issues dealing with TSA, FEMA, Customs & Border Protection, the Coast Guard and USCIS. We are also among the very best in town in identifying, creating and pursuing opportunities for clients seeking to engage the Science & Technology Directorate with innovative ideas for developing and deploying new tools for combatting threats

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Energy & Environment

In a world and economy increasingly concerned with issues such as climate change, sustainability, renewable energy, clean air, clean water and reducing carbon footprints, it is critical that small companies with big ideas for cutting edge, environmentally-friendly technologies have access to funding for research, development and deployment. While such entrepreneurial endeavors usually look to venture capital as the way to drive their products to market, many are unaware the federal government plays an important role in creating a climate for such efforts to thrive.

The National Group helps clients identify and take advantage of opportunities to bridge the gap between the research bench and marketplace for environmentally friendly and innovative energy technologies. Further development and implementation of energy derived from the sun, wind, oceans and conversion of biomass and bio-waste is critical to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create a brighter tomorrow. The National Group is at the leading edge in promoting policies and funding for clean energy and environmental stewardship.

Transportation & Infrastructure

When your business is related to transportation and infrastructure, all roads ultimately lead to Washington. And whether you are a Governor, Mayor, contractor, airport or seaport director, airline executive or union leader, The National Group has the experience and know-how to ensure that you are not left out of the legislative and regulatory processes as they relate to transportation and infrastructure funding and policy.



Led by Matt Trant, former Deputy Executive Director of the Massachusetts Port Authority, Special Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs at the US Department of Transportation and Chief of Staff to a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, The National Group's Transportation & Infrastructure team has a wealth of experience and a depth and breadth of knowledge that are unsurpassed in Washington.

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Aerospace



Led by former Deputy Administrator for Congressional Affairs at NASA, Jeff Lawrence, the National Group assists corporations from around the country and the world in understanding, navigating and engaging NASA as they seek to participate in its various important missions. We also assist universities in becoming partners of the agency, by identifying how their research capabilities may allow them to fill an important function for NASA, then bringing it to the attention of the agency's decision makers - from program managers right up to the Center Directors and the 9th floor of NASA Headquarters. We also help to link research universities with large corporations to bid on NASA research proposals. No one knows Aerospace like the professionals of The National Group.

Non-Profit Organizations



For nearly 3 decades, the partners of The National Group have set the industry standard for representing non-profit organizations in Washington. Over these many years we have achieved outstanding results for museums, science centers, libraries and special interest organizations in their pursuit of higher program funding levels, earmarks and federal grants and legislative and policy advocacy for their cause. We have also been very successful in forging significant long-term agency partnerships for our clients to help strengthen and expand informal learning opportunities and educational experiences.

State & Local Governments

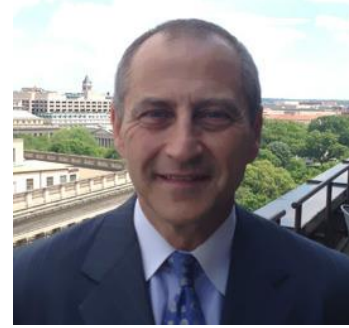


The National Group works with state and local governments to protect their interests in Washington when it comes to making policy and establishing funding levels for programs they rely on to get their jobs done. In addition, working with Congress and directly with federal agencies, we have an unparalleled track record of helping secure funding for specific projects and initiatives at the state and local level such as:

- Economic Development
- Road and bridge rehabilitation
- Bike lanes and streetscaping
- Buses and bus facilities
- Light rail
- Storm water and safe drinking water facilities
- Hiring of law enforcement officers
- Purchase of equipment and technology for first responders
- Environmental management
- And many other purposes

THE PARTNERS OF THE NATIONAL GROUP

Vincent Versage is one of the best known and well respected lobbyists in Washington, DC. With 9 years of Capitol Hill experience and nearly 30 years of high level lobbying experience, Vince is one of the premier legislative strategists in town advising clients of every size from every segment of the public and private sectors.



VINCENT VERSAGE

During his 3 decades as a federal government relations consultant, he has represented major corporations, research universities, colleges, hospitals and health systems and not for profit organizations.

In 2001, Mr. Vincent Versage founded The National Group, which is now one of the leading lobbying firms in Washington, specializing in representation of universities, museums, foundations, medical centers and defense and aerospace contractors before Congress and the federal agencies.

Mr. Vincent Versage has longtime working relationships with key Members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle and with Congressional Committees, including Appropriations, Armed Services, Ways and Means and Finance, and Transportation Committees, and with the White House and a number of Executive Branch departments and agencies. Versage is widely regarded as one of the leading lobbyists in Washington and is often quoted by Washington newspapers and national political journals regarding federal appropriations and budget issues.

A 30 year Washington veteran, Matt Trant joined The National Group in 2004, after amassing a significant record of accomplishment on Capitol Hill, in the federal government, in state government and in the private sector.



MATT TRANT

Matt's government service has included 9 years on Capitol Hill working for two Members of Congress (the late Congressman Silvio O. Conte (R-MA), Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Committee and Representative Peter Blute (R-MA), a member of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure). He also served as an appointee in the Administration of President George H. W. Bush in Intergovernmental Relations at the U.S. Department of Transportation under then-Secretary Andrew Card; and in Congressional Affairs at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). For 3 years he served as Deputy Executive Director of the Massachusetts Port Authority.

Matt is an experienced lobbyist having worked at two of the most successful firms in Washington for the past 15 years. As a Partner of The National Group, he leads the firm's Transportation and Infrastructure practice and represents a wide range of clients on funding and policy issues related to defense, energy, technology, education, homeland security, health care and other areas.

Mr. Lawrence joined The National Group in 2004 having served for the previous six years as Senior Vice President and Director of Aerospace & Technology at another DC firm. There, he led the firm's work on behalf of United Space Alliance, Boeing, Alenia Spazio, Fiat Avio, Arizona State University and Columbia University among many others.

Mr. Lawrence served as Associate Administrator for Legislative Affairs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) from April 1993 through September 1997. In that position, he was the principal legislative strategist for the nation's space agency and a senior advisor to its Administrator, Daniel S. Goldin. As one of the most senior political appointees at NASA, he was responsible for much of the interaction between the space agency, the Clinton Administration and Congress.



JEFF LAWRENCE

Prior to joining NASA, Mr. Lawrence was Legislative Director to former U.S. Representative Bill Green (R-NY), serving as Appropriations staff to the Minority Member of the VA/HUD and Independent Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. Lawrence heads TNG's Aerospace practice and has a long record of accomplishment in securing federal science funding for clients working with the Congress, NASA, NSF, NOAA and the Executive Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

Ms. Osborne heads the Healthcare practice group at The National Group where she has been a Partner since the firm's inception in 2001. Prior to joining TNG she was a Vice President at another major Washington lobbying firm where she helped to develop the health care and education appropriations practices.

Ms. Osborne worked on Capitol Hill for 6 ½ years as an aide to Congressman Frank Riggs (R-CA), a member of both the Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Education and Labor. Ms. Osborne served as the key staff person for Congressman Riggs to those committees with a particular emphasis on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and the Education and Labor Subcommittees on Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education and Lifelong Learning. Ms. Osborne also worked for Congressman Peter Torkildsen (R-MA) as the key staff person on all social, health and education issues and policy.



VALERIE OSBORNE

At The National Group Ms. Osborne plays a key role in the development and management of the firm's health care, education and non-profit practices and works closely with the Department of Health & Human Services and, in particular, HRSA and CMS.

Mr. Oldaker, a founding partner of The National Group and the Oldaker Law Group, has had an extensive career in Washington holding high-level positions in the federal government, practicing law and government relations and serving on the board of directors of banking institutions.

From 1968 to 1975 Mr. Oldaker served as assistant to the Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Mr. Oldaker later served as General Counsel to the Federal Election Commission from 1976-79. During that time, he litigated several of the Supreme Court cases that define the scope of federal campaign finance laws today. From 1979 to 1980, Mr. Oldaker served as General Counsel and Treasurer to the "Kennedy for President Committee.

Following the 1980 presidential election, Mr. Oldaker entered private practice and over the years has represented numerous presidential and congressional campaigns, as well as labor unions, trade associations, corporations and other political organizations on the establishment and operation of Political Action Committees and related political activities. Prior to co-founding The National Group he was a partner of Oldaker, Biden & Belair and was previously a partner at Epstein, Becker and Green, PC and at Manatt, Phelps and Phillips.



WILLIAM OLDAKER

Mr. Oldaker has a broad range of close working relationships with Members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle. He continues to focus on federal campaign finance and government ethics law as well as the representation of non-profit entities before Congress. Mr. Oldaker was appointed to the National Bio Ethics Committee by President Clinton and served until 2002.

Mr. Willison is a partner of The National Group and the affiliated firm Oldaker and Willison. He has served at the highest levels of government for more than 20 years, as Staff Director of the Senate



DREW WILLISON

Subcommittee on Energy & Water Appropriations and most recently as Chief of Staff to Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid. Mr. Willison has a reputation for being one of the most knowledgeable and effective staff members on Capitol Hill. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Willison was one of the principal architects of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, crafting the massive two year federal budget bill and successfully brokering its enactment with the White House and congressional leaders. As Senate Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Willison was entrusted with the operations and security of the United States Senate and developed close personal and professional relationships with all 100 Senators and their staffs. In addition to his government service, Mr. Willison served as Vice President of Public

Policy and External Relations at Battelle, the world's largest independent research and development organization. He is an Honors graduate of the College of William and Mary and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Ohio State University and a Law Degree from the George Washington University.

Michael Szymanski joined The National Group in December 2014 after having spent five years as an appointee in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of State. At State Mike served as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs and, most recently, as the Director of Policy for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. While at the Department Mike advised senior Administration officials on a broad range of economic, commercial and security issues including regulation of foreign investment in the U.S. (CFIUS), international trade (TPP and TTIP negotiations), U.S. competitiveness, U.S. business engagement in emerging markets and enhancing U.S. market access and competition in critical advanced industrial and financial sectors.



MICHAEL SZYMANSKI

Moreover Mike led specific initiatives at the Department including several public-private partnerships to encourage foreign investment in the U.S., and a multi-agency project to leverage private debt capital to support growth-oriented investment in emerging markets.

Prior to his service in the Administration, Mike served for nearly a decade in Congress on the staffs of U.S. Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY) as her Senior Economic and Telecom Policy Advisor and Robert G. Torricelli (NJ) as his Senate Finance Committee Legislative Assistant for tax and trade. During his time on the Hill, Mike honed his policy expertise in several critical issue areas including the federal budget process, domestic and international tax, trade, and economic development..

Before moving to the United States Senate, Mike worked for the Governor of New Jersey as a legislative liaison in the State of New Jersey's Washington, DC office.

Born in Korea, Mike spent his childhood in Buffalo, NY. He holds Bachelor of Arts degree from Middlebury College in Vermont.

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DR. DAVID SCHMIDLY, Former President Texas Tech University, Oklahoma State University, University of New Mexico

DR. ALBERT SIMONE, Former President, University of Hawaii, Rochester Institute of Technology

DANIEL GOLDIN, Former Administrator, NASA

BILL SHEPHERD, Former Commander, International Space Station, Former Navy Seal, NASA Program Manager, SOCOM Science Advisor

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