2021 2022 2023 TOP LOBBYISTS

**GEORGE McELWEE** 

& KEITH PEMRICK

COMMONWEALTH STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Bloomberg Government



# **OVERVIEW**

While Congress wrestled with selecting a new Speaker of the House and passing end-of-year priorities,

several members of the Commonwealth Strategic Partners (CSP) team received recognition for their advocacy efforts on behalf of our clients.

In October, Vice President, State Government Affairs Jane Clements was recognized by *City & State Pennsylvania* as one of the Keystone State's Forty Under 40 for 2023.

In November, Co-founder and Managing Partner Keith Pemrick and Vice President, Federal Government Affairs Katie Hazlett were named among the National Institute of Lobbying and Ethics Top Lobbyists of 2023.

In December, Keith and Co-founder and Managing Partner George McElwee were named to *The Hill's* Top Lobbyists of 2023 for the third year in a row.

Additionally, in October, CSP's <u>D.C. team</u> moved into <u>new office space</u> at 50 F St. NW, Suite 1240, Washington, D.C. 20001, close to the Senate Office Buildings and Union Station. CSP's growing <u>Harrisburg operation</u> secured <u>permanent office space</u> at 131 State Street, Suite 2B, Harrisburg, PA 17101, a block away from the State Capitol.

Finally, our new D.C. office sits across the street from <u>The Royal Sonesta</u>, a newly opened hotel steps from Union Station and the Capitol. CSP has secured a generous discount for our friends and clients. <u>Click here</u> for more information.

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

### Invest in the USA (IIUSA)

In November, CSP hosted IIUSA PAC Board
Chair Bob Kraft in D.C. for a series of sit-downs
with members of Congress. CSP and Kraft met with

Reps. Lance Gooden (R-TX), Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Young Kim (R-CA), Bryan Steil (R-WI), Gwen Moore (D-WI), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). Additionally,

CSP and Kraft attended a reception for House Agriculture Committee Chair GT Thompson (R-PA). The IIUSA PAC, started in 2023, supports members of Congress who champion the EB-5 Regional Center Program.



In November, CSP hosted
NTSC Executive Director Patrick
Gaul in D.C. for meetings with
congressional staff. The meetings
focused on NTSC members'
perspectives on Al regulation. The
slate of meetings caps off nearly
100 congressional meetings held by
CSP and NTSC in 2023.

## **Ophelia**

In October, CSP hosted Ophelia in Harrisburg for meetings with members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to discuss Ophelia's innovative approach to the opioid endemic through telemedicine with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).



Rep. Greg Stanton (right) with IIUSA's Bob Kraft.



Ophelia Chief Commercial Officer Lexie Minarik (left) and Vice President of Legal and Compliance Jessica Rigsby in the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

#### **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)**



Rep. Dina Titus (middle) with Kathy (right) and Christine Lambert, PETA Corporate and Policy Associate (left).

In October, CSP and PETA worked with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, co-chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, to host <u>a congressional briefing</u> on the monkey importation industry. The briefing educated staffers on the dangerous and often illegal trade, which threatens endangered species, brings pathogens into the U.S., causes animal welfare violations, and often fails to result in any valuable human medical science. The briefing included remarks from actor James Cromwell, known for roles in *Babe* and *Succession*.

In December, CSP hosted PETA Vice President, Laboratory Investigations Department Kathy Guillermo in D.C. for meetings with members of Congress and their staff. CSP and Kathy had 17 meetings total, including four with members of Congress: Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV) and Troy Nehls (R-TX), the lead sponsors of the Cease Animal Research Grants Overseas (CARGO) Act; Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA), Kathy's home representative; and Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC). The CARGO Act, championed by CSP

and PETA, would prohibit the National Institutes of Health from awarding taxpayer-funded grants to foreign laboratories for animal experimentation.



Kathy and Christine with Rep. Troy Nehls.



Rep. Rutherford (middle) with Salute Home Loans Founder and President Sam Royer (left) and CSP's George McElwee (right) after Rep. Rutherford' testimony before the House Financial Serivces Committee

#### **Salute Home Loans**

In November, CSP worked with Ohio mayors who have endorsed the HELPER Act to place an op-ed in the Dayton Daily News. The op-ed, penned by the supporting mayors, encourages Sen. JD Vance (R-OH) and Ohio representatives to join Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) in supporting the HELPER Act.

Additionally, in November, Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL), the lead sponsor of the HELPER Act, <u>went before</u> the House Financial Services Committee to encourage its members to consider the HELPER Act.

Finally, in November, CSP secured a 100th cosponsor for the HELPER Act in the House of Representatives. The House version currently has 106 cosponsors, more than 98.5% of the nearly 8,700 bills introduced in the House of Representatives this Congress.

### **POWER Engineers**

In November, Gretchen Cividini of POWER Engineers came to D.C. for her second Hill visit this year. POWER and CSP met with 17

different Congressional offices including the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-MO). The visits were capped by visiting Rep. Morgan Griffith's office; POWER recently added its 50<sup>th</sup> office, which is located in his Congressional district.



Gretchen Cividini of POWER Engineers meets with Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-MO).

#### Ravr

In December, Jake Bullock, CEO of Ravn, came to D.C. to continue Ravn's education campaign in support of their technology to improve battlefield communications and data sharing within the Department of Defense (DOD). The trip centered around furthering relationships with Members of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. Jake highlighted language included in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in support of Ravn's efforts. The visit included breakfast with Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX), who, like Jake, served as a Navy SEAL, and the two attended an off-roading school together called Tier One during their respective training. Rep. Luttrell championed the NDAA language.



## **FUNDRAISING & EVENTS**

- In October, Keith hosted a fundraiser for Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA) and Katie attended a fundraiser for Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX). In November, George hosted, and Katie attended, a fundraiser for Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). In December, Keith attended a fundraiser for Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA), and Katie attended a fundraiser for Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL).
- In November, George and Katie attended client Invest in the USA's (IIUSA) 2023 EB-5 Leadership Summit in D.C.
- Additionally, in November, George attended the <u>2023</u>
   <u>American FinTech Council Policy Summit</u> in D.C. on behalf of client Lendmark Financial Services.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- In January, CSP will host several clients in D.C. for meetings with congressional and agency staff: <u>Ravn</u>; <u>NTSC</u>; <u>Cyware</u>; <u>Aberdeen, MD</u>; and <u>American Association of Suicidology</u>.
- In February, CSP will host IIUSA in D.C. for the first of four planned 2024 quarterly fly-in lobby days.



## **NEW CLIENTS**

In November, CSP began advising the <u>Allied Pilots Association's</u> Political Action Committee (APA PAC) in D.C. CSP advises APA PAC on fundraising and donation strategy.



