



HOSA's Visibility In Washington, DC

By: Reginald Coleman

National President



On March 6-8, Regina St. George, Teresa Williamson, Karen Koeninger, and Dr. Jim Koeninger and Reginald Coleman, represented HOSA at the National Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. This event was sponsored by the Association of Career and Technical Education.

The HOSA delegation met with HOSA's Washington, DC representatives, George and Taryn Safakis, who organized three days of meetings with congressmen, senators, and their staff to analyze the health care shortage, strategize opportunities within HOSA; and mobilize HOSA membership to make a much needed difference. We met with the following: Office of Congressman Jim Gibbons (NV); Office of Senator Bill Nelson (FL); Department of Justice; Office of

Congressman Mica (FL); Office of Congressman Bill Young (FL); Congressman Burgess (TX); Office of Senator Cornyn (TX); Office of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX); Office of Senator Trent Lott (MS); Office of Senator Thad Chochran (MS); and Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein. The purpose of the meetings was to educate legislative representatives on HOSA, our organization's mission, and to also try to allocate funds to start emergency preparedness pilot programs in California, Mississippi and Florida. If the funds become available for HOSA to start these pilot programs, this would be a tremendous step in responding to the crisis that states would be faced with in the event of a natural disaster. With hurricane season fast approaching, there is not a better time to start these programs than now. HOSA members are prepared to handle situations such as these because we have had the necessary training to be responsive as a first responder when necessary.

It is important that all HOSA students and advisors get actively involved in the political process. Your voice does make a difference in educational and health issues on the Hill.

