

Sylvia Kornegay

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Washington, D.C. | 202.626.8341

skornegay@polsinelli.com



Sylvia Kornegay assists clients in shaping federal policy, appropriations and agency rulemaking. Her experience includes two decades of federal legislative work and she is dedicated to helping clients navigate the federal policy landscape and developing solutions that are impactful and values-based. Recognizing the importance of each organization's specific mission and culture, she invests time in understanding the details of a client's business and works to earn a place on the team.

Sylvia advises corporate and nonprofit organizations, particularly in the health care sector, and has represented medical device manufacturers, pharmaceuticals, clinical laboratories and provider organizations. Her work includes legislative and executive branch campaigns involving drug pricing, Medicare payment systems and rulemaking before the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Food and Drug Administration. She also works with providers to protect access to care for survivors of sexual assault and other forms of violence, including through the Violence Against Women Act. Sylvia's in-depth experience and involvement with stakeholders across the health care ecosystem affords a holistic, comprehensive perspective to advocacy. Understanding that policymaking does not occur in a vacuum, she excels at critically analyzing political and legislative proposals, anticipating needs and changing environments and adapting strategies to meet client goals.

In addition to her health care experience, Sylvia has deep understanding of the federal budget and appropriations processes and knows how to appropriately develop and integrate funding strategies into government affairs initiatives. She also has worked with clients in higher education, consumer products, tax and financial services.

Prior to joining Polsinelli, Sylvia served as staff in the U.S. House of Representatives where she managed legislative portfolios including financial services, budget and small business issues; provided vote recommendations; handled appropriations requests; and drafted legislation, including a measure related to the Securities Investor Protection Corporation that became law.

Education

- Boston University (B.A.)

Capabilities

- Public Policy
- Federal Government Policy/Lobbying
- Public Policy - Health Care
- Behavioral Health

Memberships

- Junior League of Northern Virginia

Matters

- Secured \$5 million in new federal program funding at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a national survey on survivor access to the medical forensic exam following violence and sexual assault. This effort followed enactment of the 2022 Violence Against Women Act and involved a policy campaign across the Administration and U.S. Congress. This funding enables reporting on barriers to patient access, hospital and clinic staffing, billing and reimbursement practices, and an online public map displaying the availability of medical forensic exams to individuals seeking care.
- Drafted and enacted language in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act requiring the National Academies to study the medical and forensic response to sexual assault on United States Coast Guard vessels. This measure specifically highlighted the feasibility of crisis response services and patient physical evaluation through telemedicine.
- Guided the launch of a medical device manufacturer coalition to advance federal policies that strengthen patient health outcomes, preserve access to specialty diagnostics, and protect reimbursement within the Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS).
- Supported an in-house, multi-year tax coalition that preserved the deduction of advertising as an ordinary and necessary business expense in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This multi-faceted campaign coordinated State and local district grassroots outreach with Congressional and executive branch engagement in Washington to develop strategies tailored to individual lawmakers.

Publications

May 8, 2026

Beyond the Pump: The Iran War's Adverse Impact on U.S. Health Care

April 29, 2026

Election Year Politics and Policy at CMMI: What Stakeholders Can Expect

April 15, 2026

Budget Reconciliation and Health Policy: Understanding the Legislative Process and Where Congress May Go Next

April 7, 2026

The Politics of AI Regulation: Federal Government v. the States

March 31, 2026

In-House Influence Podcast

Co-Host, In-House Influence Podcast, Washington, D.C.

March 27, 2026

Action Alert: CMS Accepting Letters of Intent for New Funding Model to Pilot Lifestyle Interventions Within Original Medicare – Letters Due by April 10

March 16, 2026

Hospitals and Health Care Providers Brought before Congress to Testify on Health Care Costs

March 5, 2026

Off and Running: The U.S. House of Representatives Kicks Off the Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Cycle

June 14, 2023

Congress Clears Major Agreement to Avert Debt Default

March 2, 2023

Polsinelli Top Issues in Behavioral Health 2023 Newsletter

September 8, 2022

Fall Congressional Forecast: Eye on Federal Funding and Health Care