

**John Laughner, Federal Government Relations Manager,
American Heart Association**

John manages the American Heart Association's federal appropriations portfolio relating to biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health and public health funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He serves as a key liaison with these federal agencies on behalf of the American Heart Association and advocates for funding for cardiovascular disease research and prevention before Congress. He spends most of his time engaging the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and leads two stakeholder coalitions including the NHLBI Constituency Group and National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research.

Prior to joining the American Heart Association, John spent over a decade working as a federal appropriations lobbyist in the education policy community. He began his career on Capitol Hill where he worked for several members of Congress. He earned his undergraduate degree in American Politics and Policy from the University of Central Florida, and his master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.