

# AARC Respiratory Fly- in 2024

PACT Orientation

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# Welcome

Welcome to the AARC Respiratory Fly-in 2024. By participating in this AARC Advocacy event, you are fulfilling a key role within our Democracy and fulfilling the vital role of advocacy for our profession.

- With Freedom Goes Responsibility.
- Congress depends on special interest groups to bring issue and information to them that are important to the members of the special interest group.
- The AARC is a special interest group.
- Access to our elected officials.
- Advocacy for issues that support, protect and expand our profession.

**If you are not at the table, you are on the menu!**

# Our Advocacy Topics



# First and Foremost – We are Respiratory Therapists!

- You represent your State Respiratory Society and the AARC.
  - Describe briefly what your State Society does.
  - Share how many respiratory therapists there are in your state.
- Whoever you meet with may not know the skills of a respiratory therapist (RT).
- Explain how you help your patients.
  - Discuss where you work and the type of patients you treat
  - Include information on how you have changed their lives and improved their quality of life
  - Give one or two specific examples of improved outcomes – be brief
  - If you have video-taped your patients on your phone, show the interviews as a way to bring the message home.



# American Lung Association Prevalence and Incidence of Lung Diseases

<u>State or County</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Pediatric Asthma</u>	<u>Adult Asthma</u>	<u>COPD</u>	<u>Adult Chronic Lung Disease</u>	<u>Lung Cancer</u>
Massachusetts	6,984,723	132,116	668,642	322,549	1,019,606	4,057
Barnstable County	232,411	3,243	23,296	14,224	36,407	135
Berkshire County	128,657	2,033	12,698	6,964	19,512	75
Bristol County	580,164	11,561	54,637	26,925	84,438	337
Dukes County	21,097	359	2,044	1,157	3,198	12
Essex County	807,074	16,379	75,644	37,543	117,495	469
Franklin County	71,015	1,159	6,962	3,806	10,731	41
Hampden County	462,718	9,496	43,362	21,171	67,248	269
Hampshire County	161,572	2,227	16,621	7,706	24,115	94
Middlesex County	1,614,742	30,678	154,771	72,218	234,309	938
Nantucket County	14,491	289	1,364	657	2,096	8
Norfolk County	724,505	14,457	68,253	33,445	105,368	421
Plymouth County	533,003	10,767	49,825	25,644	78,006	309
Suffolk County	771,245	12,182	78,054	31,818	111,750	448
Worcester County	862,029	17,286	81,111	39,271	124,933	501

# Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform “SOAR ACT”

## (S 3821/ HR 7829)

### Senate (S 3821)

- Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
- Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

### House (HR 7829)

- Representative David Valadao (R-CA)
- Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA)
- Representative Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
- Representative Adrian Smith (R-NE)



### Major Elements

This bill has been submitted to the US Senate and a companion bill has been submitted in the House of Representatives. The bill is supported by a broad coalition of professional associations (like: AARC, ATS, ACCP, Etc.), patient advocacy groups (like: American Lung Association, COPD Foundation, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, etc.), and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers.

# SOAR ACT (S 3821/ H R 7829)

The SOAR Act proposes the implementation of the following Four Pillars of Oxygen Reform.

1. Ensure supplemental oxygen is patient centric.

- Change “home oxygen” to “supplemental oxygen” to ensure people requiring oxygen can live full lives outside their primary residence.
- Create a patients’ bill of rights to ensure care is focused on patient needs.

2. Ensure access to liquid oxygen for patients whom it is medically necessary.

3. Create a statutory service element to provide adequate reimbursement for respiratory therapists to ensure patients have access to their expertise.

4. To ensure predictable and adequate reimbursement and to protect against fraud and abuse, establish national standardization documentation requirements that rely upon a template rather than prescriber medical records to support claims for supplemental oxygen suppliers.

**OUR ASK: Please co-sponsor this important piece of legislation.**

# Organizations Supporting the SOAR ACT (S 3821/ H R 7829)

## Organizations In Support

Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American Lung Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Thoracic Society  
California Society for Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
COPD Foundation  
The Council for Quality Respiratory Care  
Dorney-Koppel Foundation  
Hawaii COPD Coalition  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
The LAM Foundation  
NTM Info & Research  
PCD Foundation  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Respiratory Health Association  
Running On Air  
Scleroderma Foundation of California  
TSC Alliance  
USCOPD Coalition



# Financial Details of the SOAR Act

CBO type scoring methodology by the Moran Company.

- **\$654 million over a ten-year period.**
  - \$398 million over ten years additional spending for remove Oxygen from competitive bidding.
  - \$198 million over ten years additional spending for reimbursement for respiratory therapy for Oxygen and Ventilator patients.
  - \$58 million over ten years additional spending for electronic templates for medical necessity documentation for Oxygen.

# Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home ACT (HR 1406/S 3021)

## House (HR 1406)

- Representative John Joyce (R-PA)
- Representative Scott Peters (D-CA)

## Senate (S 3021)

- Senator Kirsten Sinema (I-AZ)
- Senator Blackburn (R-TN)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

## Major Elements

The Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act. This bill permanently allows services relating to cardiac rehabilitation programs, intensive cardiac rehabilitation programs, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs to be furnished via telehealth at a beneficiary's home under Medicare and was submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Joyce and Rep. Peters submitted the bill to the U.S. House of Representatives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) temporarily allowed cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation to be delivered via telehealth under the Hospital Without Walls program. Although most tele-health waivers have been made permanent, Cardiopulmonary rehab was left out. HR 1406/S 3021 seeks to resolve this omission.

**OUR ASK:** Please co-sponsor this important piece of legislation.



# Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act

Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act is now law. It was passed by the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress in the last omnibus spending bill late last year and signed into law by President Biden. However, there were no provisions for funding this important piece of legislation.



## Summary

The Allied Health Workforce Diversity (AHWD) Act (H.R. 3320/S. 1679) authorizes assistance for increasing workforce diversity in the allied health professions, including respiratory care. It will provide grants and scholarships to eligible entities, including students from racial and ethnic minorities, to increase educational opportunities that could lead to an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree or even assistance to complete prerequisite courses or other preparation necessary to be accepted for enrollment in one of allied health programs. It can help to help with retention of new students coming into respiratory therapist programs to meet future healthcare needs for those with chronic and acute respiratory problems.

## **OUR ASK: Support Funding of the Allied Health Professions Diversity Act.**

# Additional Topics if Time Permits

- Banning Menthol in Tobacco Products – The AARC is requesting that the Administration implement a ban on menthol flavorings for tobacco products. The tobacco industry has a long history of using menthol flavorings in their products and have target underserved populations with their marketing campaigns. We ask that the use of menthol flavorings in tobacco product be banned.

## **OUR ASK: Ban Menthol in Tobacco Products.**

- Supporting adequate funding for the National Institutes for Health (NIH) - Funding for research on respiratory diseases flows primarily through NIH to various research entities in the form of research grants. The AARC supports efforts for adequate funding of NIH to support future research in respiratory diseases.

## **OUR ASK: Supporting adequate funding for NIH.**

# Current Co-sponsors

Chamber	SOAR ACT (S 3821/ HR 7829)	Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act (S 4120 / HR TBD)	Cardiopulmonary Telehealth (HR 1406/S 3021)
US House of Representatives	4 (3 original)	TBD	57 (1 original)
US Senate	(3 original)	25 (24 original)	4 (2 original)

Updates can be found on: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

# Respiratory Fly-In Logistics



[aarc.org](http://aarc.org)

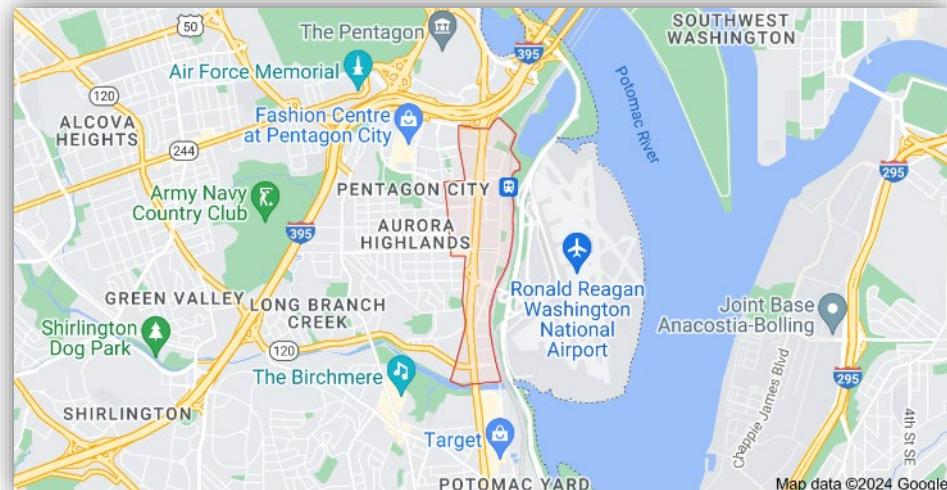
# The Westin Crystal City Regan National Airport

1800 Richmond Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202

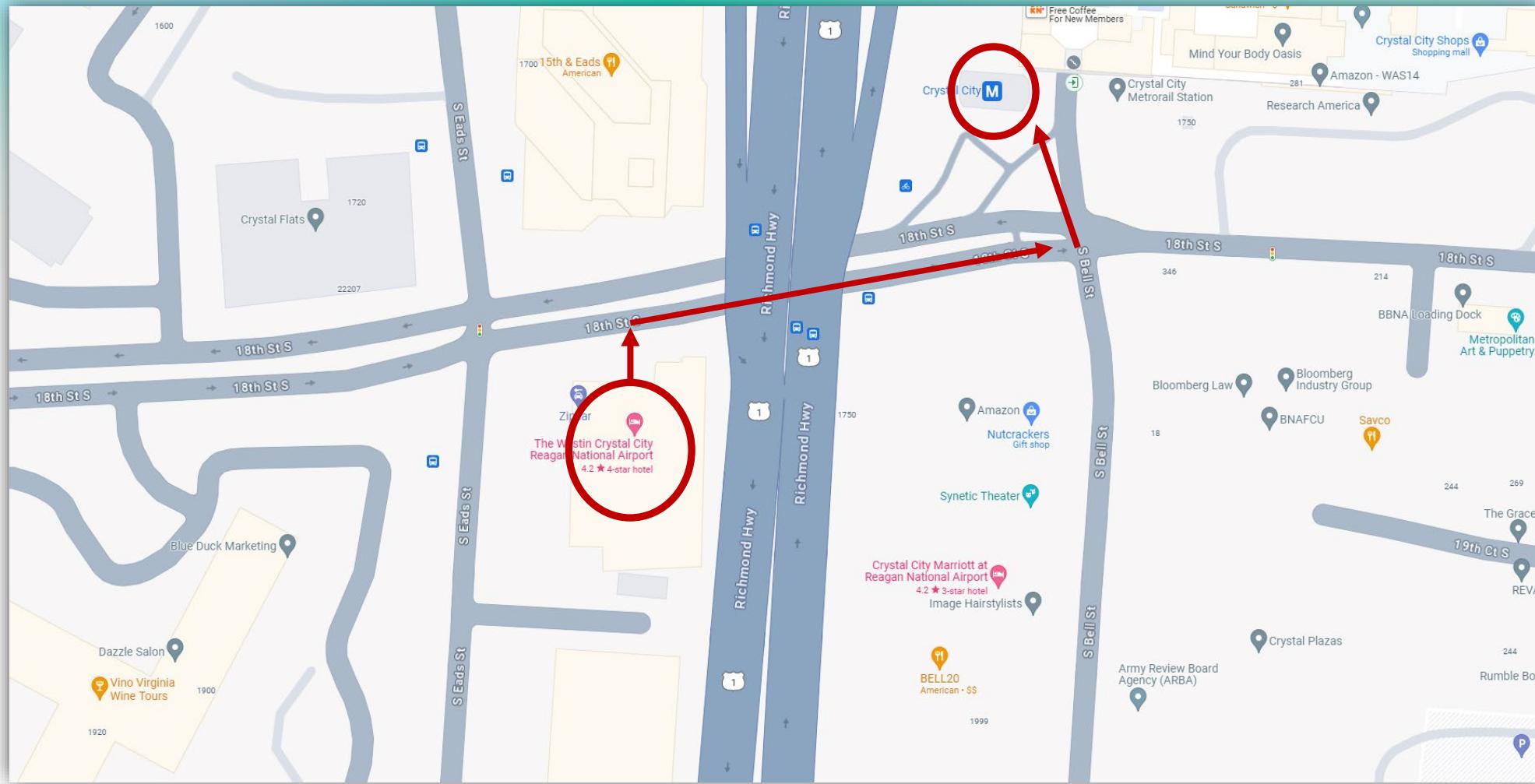
Phone: 703.486.1111

## Schedule Summary

- Airport shuttle available to/from airport.
- Registration 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon EDT.
- Orientation starts at Noon EDT on Monday, April 6, 2024, with lunch.
- Dinner on own - ~4:30 PM.
- Tuesday breakfast 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM.
- Tuesday evening – dinner and debrief – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.



# Hotel and Metro Station

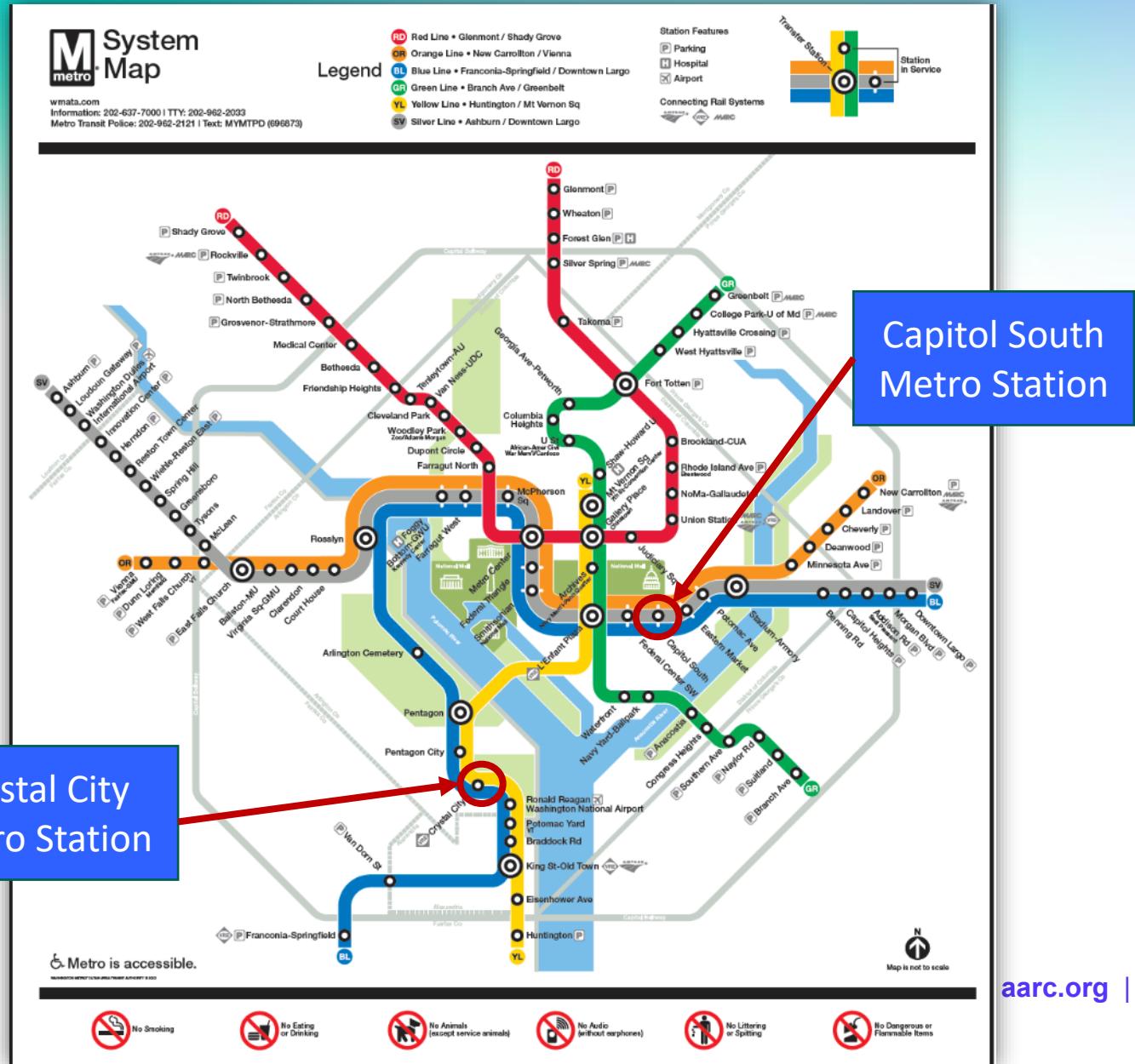


# Navigating the Washington, DC Metro

## APP Store: DC Metro and Bus



- Blue Line – The Capitol Crystal City Metro Station – Northwest corner of Crystal Drive and 18th Street South Arlington, VA 22202
- Towards “Downtown-Largo.”
- South Capitol Station – Directly behind the Cannon House Office Building (CHOB) – 13 stops.
- Return to the Westin Hotel – Towards “Franconia-Springfield” station.



# Alternate Route

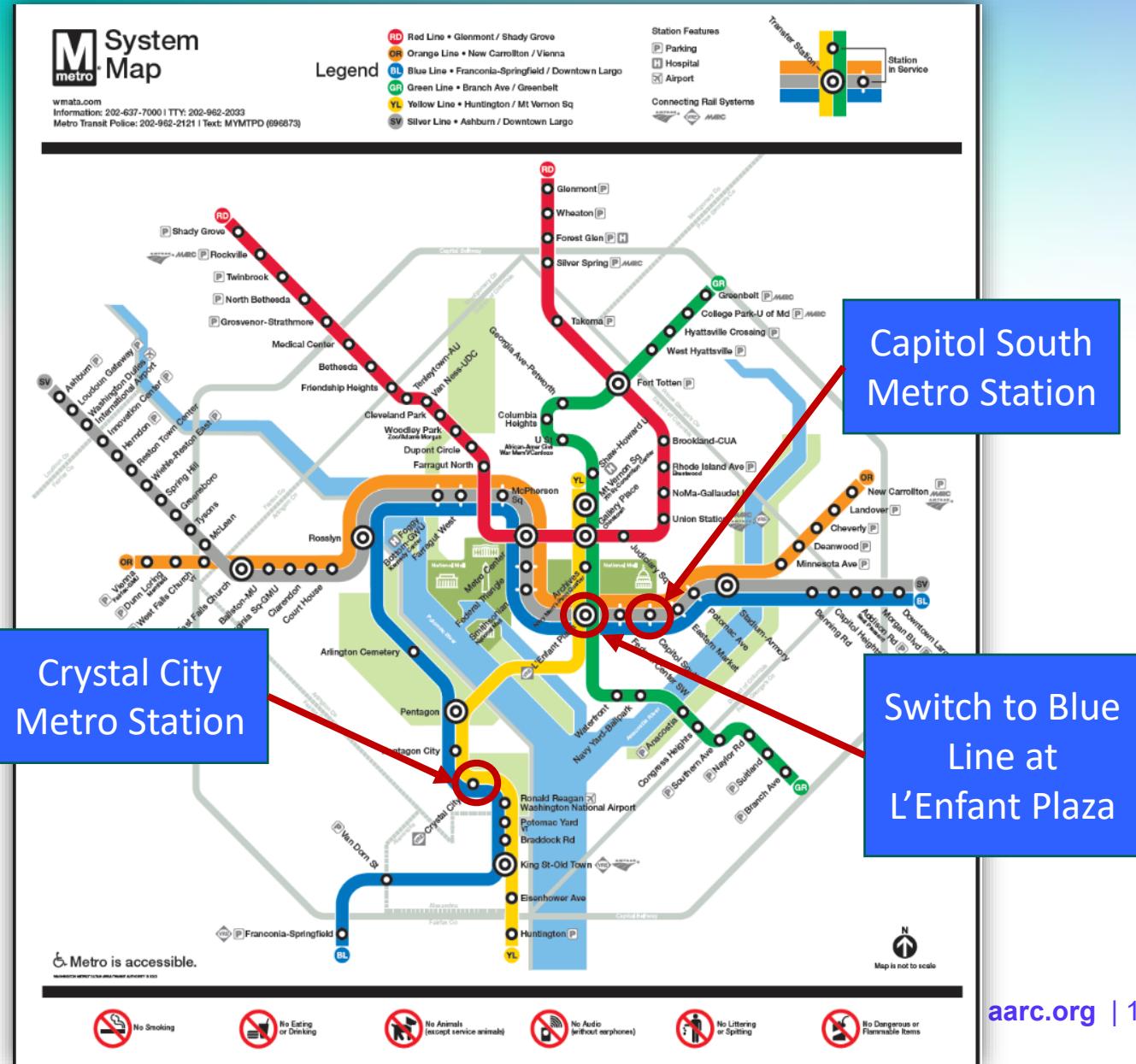
APP Store: DC Metro and Bus

- **Yellow Line – The Capitol**  
**Crystal City Metro Station –**

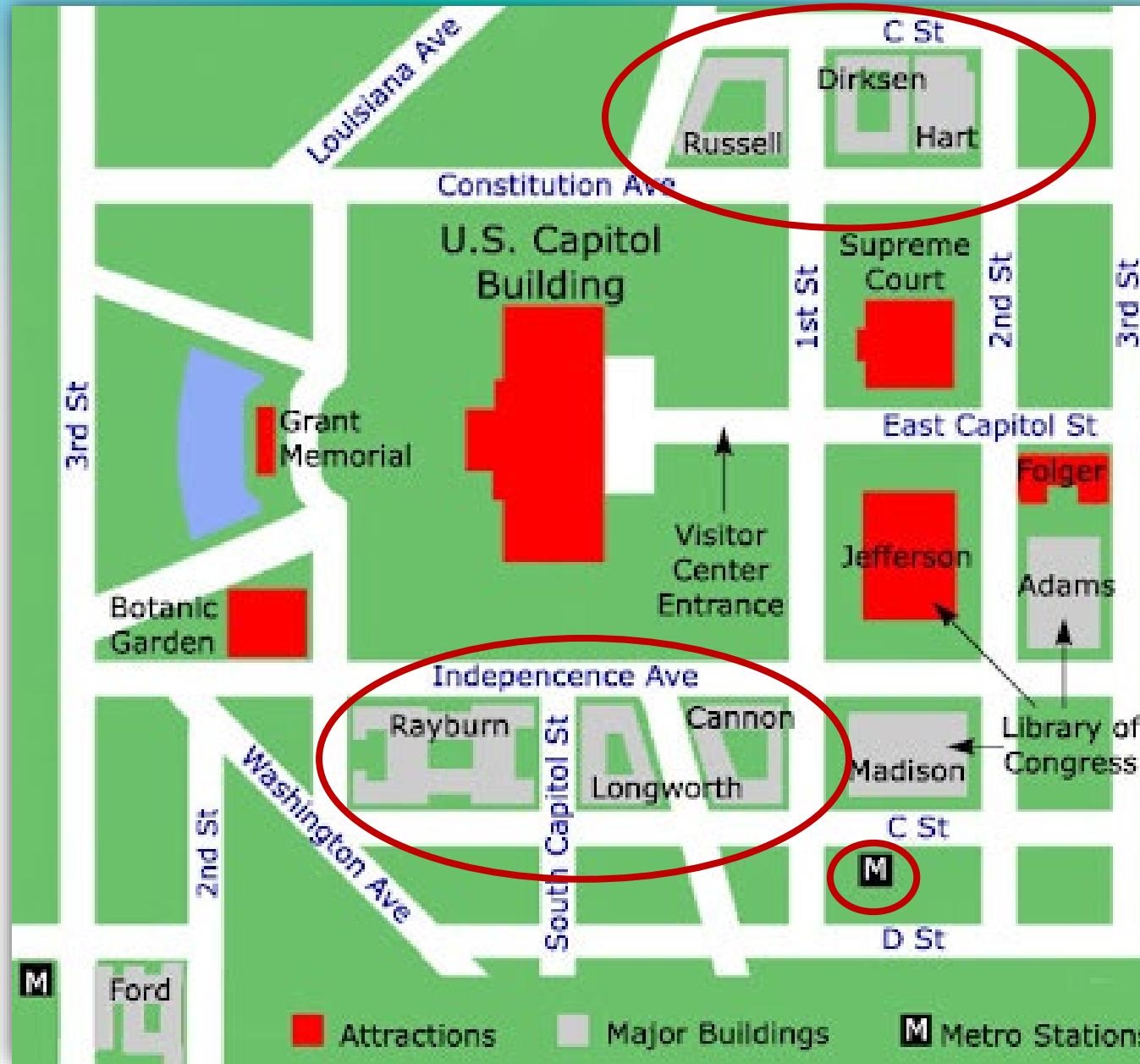
Northwest corner of Crystal Drive and 18th Street South  
Arlington, VA 22202

- Towards “Greenbelt.”
- Switch to Blue Line at “L’Enfant Plaza.”
- South Capitol Station – Directly behind the Cannon House Office Building (CHOB) – 5 stops
- Return to the Westin Hotel – Towards:  
Blue Line - “Franconia-Springfield” station.

Yellow Line – “Huntington” station then switch to Blue Line at “L’Enfant Plaza.”



# Capitol Hill



# Cannon House Office Building



# Congressional Office Buildings and Office Numbers Key

## Senate Office Buildings

Hart

Dirksen

Russell

CHOB 1234



## House of Representative Office Buildings

Cannon

Longworth

Rayburn

### Notes:

- All buildings are connected by central hallways in the basement.
- There are cafes in each building – basement level
- Gift Shops
  - House of Representatives – Longworth Bldg. – basement level
  - Senate – Dirksen Building – basement level

# IMPORTANT!

- Take a few minutes to research the elected member's website:
  - Determine what their hot button issues are.
  - Check their committee assignments (Energy & Commerce, .
- Take notes during your meetings.
  - Pickup a business card from the staffer with whom you are meeting.
  - If they ask any questions that you cannot answer, be sure to capture the question and we will follow up.
- **Complete an AARC JotForm for each of your meetings.**
  - **Be sure to flag any commitments for co-sponsorship that you may receive.**
  - **We will forward this information to our Advocacy Firm in Washington, DC for follow up.**

# *Thank you!*

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