

Chatrane Birbal Biography

Chatrane Birbal is a director of policy engagement in SHRM national's Alexandria, Va. office. In this capacity, she is actively involved in policy issues on Capitol Hill that impact the workplace. In her role, Ms. Birbal lobbies Congress in support of workplace public policy issues including workforce development, workplace equity, workplace flexibility and leave, workplace immigration and employer-sponsored benefits (health care and retirement).

Prior to joining SHRM, Ms. Birbal was the director of government relations at the Council on Foundations, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit membership association of some 2,000 grant making foundations and corporations, with assets totaling more than \$282 billion. During her tenure at the Council, Ms. Birbal implemented strategies and launches programs in support of the organization's public policy and government relations work. She lobbied Congress on tax legislation relating to charitable giving, raised the Council's profile with Congress and other nonprofit organizations, advised members on legislative activities impacting philanthropy and planned and executed the Council's annual legislative fly-in conference, "Foundations on the Hill."

Prior to joining the Council, Ms. Birbal was a federal legislative lobbyist at the American Psychiatric Association (APA), an Arlington, Va.-based medical specialty society with over 38,000 U.S. and international member physicians who work together to ensure humane care and effective treatment for all persons with mental disorders, including mental retardation and substance-related disorders. During her tenure at APA, Ms. Birbal lobbied Congress on behalf of psychiatrists, planned and executed the association's annual advocacy day training session for membership as well as developed the APA's online advocacy action center to further legislative efforts on behalf of the psychiatry profession.

Chatrane previously served on the Board of Directors for the ACT for Alexandria community foundation. ACT for Alexandria brings the community together to elevate local philanthropic giving and engagement to new heights, supports local nonprofits working to aid the most vulnerable and develops solutions for the community's most pressing challenges. During her tenure on the Board Ms. Birbal supported the foundation's initiatives including ACTION Alexandria, an online civic engagement platform and Spring2ACTION, 24 hours of online giving to support local nonprofits.

Chatrane obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the State University at Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y. and received her graduate degree of public administration and public policy from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Ms. Birbal currently serves on the Board of Directors of Women in Government Relations (WGR) - the premier, non-partisan professional society dedicated to advancing and empowering women by fostering professional development and growth opportunities through a community that supports women's leadership in government relations. Ms. Birbal also serves as a leader of the WGR Membership and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committees, developing and implementing recruitment strategies to attract and retain an engaged and diverse membership.