



## Who We Are

CPR is a network of more than 50 acclaimed legal scholars from across the United States who work with a professional staff of policy analysts and communications experts to advocate for robust public protections. Our legal and policy research is integral to the progressive movement, supporting environmental, labor, and consumer protection advocates.



## At No Time in History...

has technology allowed us to be so connected, informed, and capable of fast political action. We're going to need that. We face a demagogic president and a congressional majority hell-bent on rolling back the decades of progress our nation has made on social and economic issues. Our task is daunting, but that's no reason to stop striving for a home that is safer, cleaner, and fairer for everyone.

Our country is resilient. From our precarious founding to devastating armed conflicts at home and abroad; from political corruption to attempts to dismantle the institutions, systems, and safeguards that hold our people together, we've persevered. We know from past experience that we can get through challenges like the ones we face now. But we know, too, that it will require hard work to keep American democracy vibrant and strong.



That work starts with building strong communities that provide individuals the security and opportunity to thrive. Among other things, that requires smart laws and policies that protect our health and environment and that make sure the economy is prosperous for all.

That's where the Center for Progressive Reform comes in. For the past 15 years, we've been at the forefront of legal and

policy research designed to help advocates and policy experts make communities and political institutions stronger, fairer, and more resilient. We've been and continue to be a linchpin in coalitions, including in the Chesapeake Bay region, by providing unique legal and policy consulting services to advocacy partners. Our work helped form the basis of EPA's Clean Power Plan and helped shape OSHA's silica rule, and it will be instrumental in defending these and other protections during Trump's presidency. And we've become a trusted source for media outlets that reach advocates and communities across the country.

The Center for Progressive Reform is uniquely situated to be a leader in the work ahead by continuing our "think-and-do" tradition of looking for legal footholds upon which we can ascend while relying on rope lines of community groups and advocacy organizations to make sure we all summit together.

As CPR marks its 15th anniversary, I invite you to join us as we work to protect and improve our communities and our democracy through policy analysis, creative solutions, and robust communications.

Sincerely,  
**Rob Verchick**  
President, Center for Progressive Reform

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# CPR

is working to change the conversation about regulatory safeguards to put people and the environment FIRST.

## Shifting the Terms of the Debate

By pairing our Member Scholars' robust analysis with communications know-how, CPR is changing the way people think about regulatory policy. For years, industry opponents of sensible safeguards and their political allies have used a broad brush to paint vital safeguards as nothing more than burdensome red tape, ignoring the lives they save, ecosystems they protect, work and school time they save, and more. But CPR is fighting back, setting the record straight.

Since the November 2016 election, CPR Member Scholars have placed op-eds in newspapers across the country, from

*The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* to the *Sacramento Bee* and *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Their essays have appeared in *Scientific American*, *Slate*, and *The American Prospect*. And along with our policy analysts, they are interviewed almost daily by media outlets of all sizes — from major newspapers to trade publications. We are a trusted source for analysis that's as trenchant as it is relatable.

## Expertise that Connects the Dots

It's not easy to spot the connection between rules requiring rearview cameras in cars and preventing prison rape. (Hint: it's the "value of a statistical life.") Or between private plane crashes and generic drug warning labels. (That would be "regulatory preemption.") But CPR's experts see those connections and know how to call attention to esoteric policies that have wide-ranging, sometimes damaging implications. We connect those dots, creating opportunities for public interest advocates to work together for policy reforms that move us beyond identity politics.



As one example, CPR employs a unique approach to providing legal and policy consulting services for state and regional environmental organizations working to restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. CPR's Chesapeake Bay Policy Analysts and Member Scholars ensure that our dozens of allied partners and coalitions have access to the legal scholarship and policy expertise they need to support their individual projects and campaigns on behalf of the Bay. In this way, CPR has a multiplier effect, strengthening the collective voice of the entire community.

## Government Experience

Being recognized and respected among policymakers and the academy, it was no surprise that many CPR Member Scholars were called to serve as high-ranking officials in the Obama administration. There, they were able to directly influence agency decision-making and promote progressive policies. Their experiences in those positions will continue to enhance CPR's ability to engage with policymakers going forward.

CPR Member Scholars were at the vanguard of legal research and advocacy on combating climate change through the federal Clean Air Act. Their work helped form the basis of EPA's Clean Power Plan and will be instrumental in shaping the future of clean air regulation during Donald Trump's presidency.



## Delivering in the Clutch

CPR Member Scholars and policy analysts testify regularly as witnesses at congressional hearings on public interest policy issues, often providing the lone progressive voice to counter corporate lobbying efforts that seek to undermine public protections. CPR has also become a trusted expert for congressional staff in both the House and Senate on a wide variety of policy matters, providing timely and accurate information and counsel on legislation, investigations, and research.

CPR is actively engaged in regulatory matters, too. When OSHA set out to regulate cancer-causing silica dust, CPR identified a flaw in the agency's proposed rule that limited workers' access to medical monitoring. After we pointed out the flaw and argued that the agency faced a litigation risk if it were to leave the loophole in place, OSHA made a fix that aligned with our recommendation and expanded life-saving health monitoring to a quarter million workers across the United States.

Across a range of health, safety, and environmental issues, CPR's Member Scholars and staff experts are defending the values at the heart of such landmark laws as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act, and more. By mixing policy expertise, legal experience, and communications prowess, CPR is working to change the conversation about regulatory safeguards to put people and the environment first.

