



Mary Kate Cunningham, CAE is the Senior Vice President of Public Policy at ASAE: The Center for Association Leadership. Since taking the reins of ASAE's public policy department in 2018, Mary Kate has grown an effective, results-oriented advocacy team; garnered bipartisan support for association issues on the Hill; and expanded ASAE's grassroots network. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ASAE's policy team has advocated for federal relief for 501(c)(6) organizations, successfully urging Congress to expand access to many PPP to (c)(6) entities, and advancing legislation that helps associations and other non-profit organizations weather losses and event cancellations throughout the current crisis and future public health emergencies.

Prior to this role, Cunningham worked for the House Armed Services Committee in the Communications Office and the Seapower Subcommittee. She is also a member of the Tax Coalition board. In 2019 she was named a Leading Association Lobbyist by Association Trends. In 2013 she received the "Up and Coming Practitioner" award from the Professional Women in Advocacy Conference. From 2014-2016 she served as the Director of Communications for No Exceptions, an initiative of the Truman Project and Center for National Policy, a non-partisan nationwide coalition of post-9/11 generation military veterans and national security leaders who support a military-wide policy of full combat inclusion. In 2016 the Department of Defense announced there would be "no exceptions" to full combat inclusion.

Cunningham earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from ASAE in 2017. Originally from Arizona, Cunningham graduated with a Master's degree in Strategic Security Studies from the National Defense University. She received her bachelor's degree from The Catholic University of America where she studied Political Science. She lives in DC with her husband, and in her free time enjoys cooking with her Cook Book Book Club.