

# Different Types of Advocacy



**Legislative Advocacy:** Work you do to promote your cause related to the legislative process. This includes:

- Working before the session begins to educate legislators about the issue and identifying other groups or individuals who support your cause to form an alliance or coalition. As you educate others on your issue it is important to represent all sides of the issue - the pro's and cons, who will support or fight you on the issue, and all potential impact of the bill.
- Working during the session to educate other legislators by testifying at hearings, providing fact sheets, and working with the legislator(s) who supports your cause to guarantee that the bill makes it through the process.
- Following-up after the session to thank legislators who were helpful to your cause. If you were unsuccessful this is a good time to begin educating legislators on the issue if you want to try and pass the legislation in a future session.

**Administrative Advocacy: Work** you do to promote your cause at the local, state, or federal level to make changes in policies and/or implementation strategies that does not require a change in law. This includes:

- Once a bill becomes law a number of steps have to be completed before it can be implemented. If rules are needed then the appropriate department must promulgate rules (write draft rules, allow public comment, integrate the comments, and file final rules). It is important to read through promulgated rules and provide written comments - this is the only way to help guarantee that the intent of the law is carried out. After the promulgation process - it is important to monitor the implementation of the rules and policies. Monitoring can last a lifetime.
- Working with state or local office holders who oversee a program and/or state or local agencies that are responsible for running the program to make changes that do not require legislative action. (Who you advocate with depends on the issue.) In working to make an administrative change it is important to have supporting documentation - your word is probably not enough. Once you have convinced the appropriate person that a change is needed - the hard work begins.

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