How to be an effective advocate

• Define Advocacy
• Where we advocate
• How we advocate
• How to plan advocacy, and work with advocates
• How a bill becomes a law
• Example – Public Health Dental Hygienist
Definition of advocacy

*Public support of an issue or position.*
Different advocacy venues

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Legislative
- Regulatory (executive branch)
- Judicial
Some Advocacy Strategies

Coalitions can be helpful

Letters to the editor/op ed
Lobbying
Social media
Legal advocacy

*The internet has lots of “advocacy toolkits”*
Toolkit

Want to do more for animals in your community? Use these resources to become a better grassroots advocate, or contact an HSUS state director to find out how to work together with The HSUS in your state.

Attending Town Meetings
The Humane Society of the United States
A large and well-informed turnout at a town hall meeting or a community forum is an extremely effective way to send a strong message to your congressperson, the media, and the general public (via the media).

Calling Elected Officials
The Humane Society of the United States
As a citizen, you have the right to express your opinion to your elected official. Phone calls are an effective and easy way make your voice heard. The following are some recommendations for making phone calls to your elected officials.

Do’s and Don’ts of Lobbying
The Humane Society of the United States
How to be an effective animal advocate.
ORAL HEALTH ADVOCACY TOOLKIT
Strategies and Resources for Dental Schools and Dental Hygiene Programs

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Kornberg School of Dentistry
Oral Health Advocacy Toolkit

Early childhood dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood, yet access to oral health care continues to be a problem for many children and families. There are many ways for pediatricians and dental professionals to improve oral health access by advocating for kids’ oral health in their practice, community, and at the state and federal levels. Included in this toolkit you will find ideas and tools to engage as an oral health advocate or to simply help you weave oral health into your existing advocacy efforts.

Access the toolkit here.

Table of Contents

- Areas of Focus
- Advocacy on Social Media
- Contact Elected Officials
- Advocating Through Traditional Media (Op-Ed, Blogs, Newspaper, TV, Radio)
- Other Helpful Resources

Useful Links

- Families USA Oral Health for All
- National Children’s Dental Health Month Resources from the ADA
- Children’s Dental Health Project
- OH2020

AAP Twitter Handles
Strategies

List adapted from CCCNY:

◦ Know the facts
◦ Use the facts
◦ Have a clear and concise message (talking points)
◦ Nurture relationships
◦ Work collaboratively
◦ Engage the public
◦ Make your voice heard
◦ Say thank you
So... you have a problem you want to fix.

You decide you need to change the law.

You come up with a great idea for a law.

You get the law written.

You find a legislator to introduce the law.

How does a bill become a law?
It’s like School House Rock!
“I’m just a bill, oh I’m only a bill...”
Rhode Island legislative advocacy

1. Bills are introduced.

2. Bills are assigned number, and assigned to committee.

3. Bills may be scheduled by committee for hearing. Hearing notices are here: [http://status.rilin.state.ri.us/legislative_committee_calendar.aspx](http://status.rilin.state.ri.us/legislative_committee_calendar.aspx)

4. Many bills are “held for further study.” Some bills get to the floor for a vote.

5. A bill must pass the House and the Senate in order to get to the Governor for her signature. Often, successful bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate (companion bills).
How to follow a bill

If you find a bill that is interesting or important, you might want to follow it through the legislative process.

Example 1: Public Health Dental Hygienists
Legislative Status Report

Condition: {Session Year: 2015} {Bills: 683,5682}

Senate Bill No. 683_SUB_A
Chapter 192
(Department of Health)
BY Nessiebush, Crowley, Pichardo, Miller, Fogarty
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS (This act would allow public health dental hygienists to perform certain dental hygiene procedures in a public setting without the immediate supervision of a dentist.)

{LC1791/A/2}

03/12/2015 Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services
03/13/2015 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (03/19/2015)
03/19/2015 Committee recommended measure be held for further study
05/26/2015 Scheduled for consideration (05/28/2015)
05/28/2015 Committee recommends passage of Sub A
06/02/2015 Placed on Senate Calendar (06/04/2015)
06/04/2015 Senate passed Sub A
06/05/2015 Referred to House H.E.W.
06/21/2015 Scheduled for consideration (06/23/2015)
06/23/2015 Committee recommends passage of Sub A in concurrence
06/23/2015 Placed on House Calendar (06/23/2015)
06/23/2015 House passed Sub A in concurrence
07/07/2015 Transmitted to Governor
07/09/2015 Signed by Governor

House Bill No. 5682
BY McNamara
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS (Authorizes the practice of "public health hygienists" who would be authorized to perform certain dental services in a public health setting.)

{LC1923/1}

02/26/2015 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.
04/10/2015 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (04/15/2015)
04/15/2015 Committee recommended measure be held for further study
06/05/2015 Scheduled for consideration
06/11/2015 Meeting postponed (06/11/2015)
Live Streaming Video Links

- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 1
- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 2
- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 3
- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 4
- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 5
- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 6
- Capitol Television Live Web Channel 7

Video On Demand

- Capitol Television Video on Demand

Some browsers may require Flash support to view videos.

Click here to download the latest Flash Player from Adobe.

Capitol Television Schedule

Monday, June 10, 2019

9:00 AM  Mock Session: Chester W. Barrows Elementary School 6.5.19
10:00 AM  Rhode Island Day of Portugal 6.7.19
11:30 AM  Senate Committee on Finance 6.6.19
1:55 PM  75th Anniversary of D-Day 6.6.19
3:00 PM  House Committee on Finance TV LIVE (Web 1)
Thank you!

Questions?

My contact information:
Rebecca Kislak
rebecca@rebeccakislak.com
401-400-2338