

Student Advocacy
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ASHA
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Disclosure Statement

Susan Adams, Director, State Legislative & Regulatory Advocacy

- ▶ Financial: I am a paid employee of ASHA
- ▶ Non-Financial: I support ASHA's Public Policy Agenda, which includes the advocacy initiatives that the Association supports.

What is Advocacy?

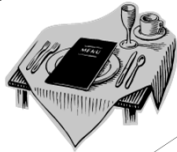
- ▶ Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

What is Grassroots Advocacy?

- ▶ Grassroots advocacy is the act of an individual constituents communicating ideas and opinions to government officials.
- ▶ Grassroots advocacy is especially effective when many individual members of an organization write letters and place phone calls to government officials to express similar sentiments.

Why Advocate?

“If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu”



What Activities Comprise Advocacy?

- ▶ Organizing: Build a power base
- ▶ Educate Legislators/Educate the Public: Provide information on the issues
- ▶ Research: Produce relevant resources that reflect your issues
- ▶ Regulatory efforts: Take action at the agency level
- ▶ Lobbying: Advocate for or against specific legislation

How Involved in Advocacy is your Association?

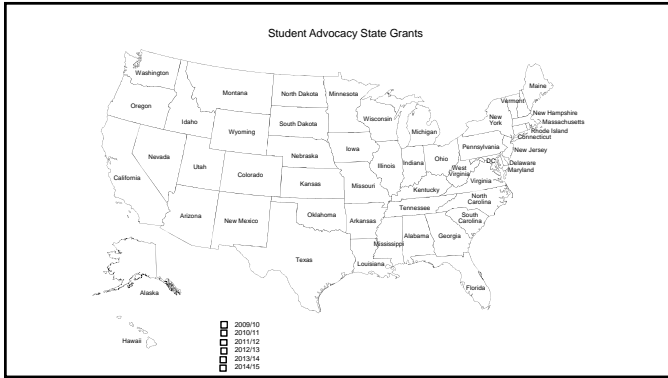
- ▶ Educate
 - ▶ Inform your Association about the current policies and problems affecting the professions
- ▶ Evaluate
 - ▶ Evaluate your Association's mission and goals, and examine whether current programs involve advocacy as a means to address problems or grievances in the professions. If not, how could advocacy play a larger role?
- ▶ Collaborate
 - ▶ Work in coalitions with groups whose philosophy and goals resonate with yours. Together, pooling staff and resources, all parties involved in the coalition should be better equipped to take on campaigns and work for change.

How does your Association Involve Students in Advocacy?

- ▶ Students are the future of the profession
- ▶ Advocacy offers them an opportunity to become educated on issues that affect the professions
- ▶ Advocacy allows them to see how policy is created and how to effect change
- ▶ Students who take part in advocacy are more likely to stay involved during their professional careers
- ▶ Advocacy empowers them to become leaders

ASHA Advocacy Resources - State

- ▶ ASHA Student Advocacy Grants
 - ▶ A grant of up to \$1,000 is available to state associations interested in developing/increasing student participation in state advocacy activities.
 - ▶ Grant applications are expected to open in September 2015.
- ▶ <http://www.asha.org/Advocacy/stateleaders/Student-Advocacy-Grants/>



ASHA Advocacy Resources - State

- ▶ Examples of Student Advocacy Grants include:
 - ▶ Funding for "Day at the Capital" events
 - ▶ Holding student advocacy presentations by lobbyist/Association at their University
 - ▶ Developing webinars on the importance of advocacy

ASHA Advocacy Resources - Federal

- ▶ Student Hill Day
 - ▶ Every year, students and NSSLHA chapters from every state join together to petition Congress on behalf of audiologists and speech-language pathologists
 - ▶ ASHA hosts students from CSD programs in the surrounding Washington, DC, area to convene on Capitol Hill to advocate for issues ranging from student loan forgiveness to telehealth. The day begins with a briefing on Capitol Hill about effective talking points and protocol when meeting with the representatives.

ASHA Advocacy Resources - Federal

▶ Virtual Advocacy Day

▶ Students from around the country log into ASHA's Take Action site to take part in this united effort to ensure the future of the professions.

▶ <http://www.asha.org/NSSLHA/events/Virtual-Advocacy-Day/>

ASHA Advocacy Resources - Social Media

▶ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AshaAdvocacy>

▶ Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ASHAAdvocacy>

▶ Google +: <https://plus.google.com/116959806634817554710/posts>

▶ Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/ashaweb/asha-advocacy/>

▶ YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8XYIFygdg6U8uXhkmy_tVo45xVwH6Dgc

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