

State Advocacy: What to Expect

Advocating at the state level is an important form of advocacy that has the power to impact local communities and states as a whole. This one-pager provides an overview of what to expect during the advocacy process and outlines key steps, challenges, and potential outcomes.

1

Research and Prepare

Research existing laws, policies, and data related to the issue in your state. Contact NDSS for data and guidance.



2

Coalition Building

Look for local like-minded organizations, professionals, and legal experts. NDSS' policy team can help you find the best state affiliate groups to speak with.

3

Identify Champions

Seek lawmakers who have shown interest in disability issues.

4

Crafting the Bill

Collaborate with the legislator and the NDSS policy team to draft a comprehensive bill that effectively addresses the issue. NDSS can provide support and guidance in this process.

5

Building Public Support

Utilize social media, community events, and awareness campaigns to garner support for your position.



6

Facing Opposition

Be prepared for opposition, understand their concerns, and develop counterarguments to respectfully address them.

7

Navigating the Legislative Process

It can be complex. Prepare for committee hearings, public testimonies, and amendments to the bill. Stay proactive in maintaining support and addressing lawmakers' concerns.

8

Media and Public Relations

Highlight stories of individuals affected by the issue to humanize the issue, generate positive coverage, and maintain public interest.



9

Monitoring Progress

Track the bill's progress. Understand adjustments to the timeline may be made to accommodate changing circumstances.

10

Celebrate Milestones. Stay Resilient.

Persistence, resilience, and adaptability are key. Every step brings us closer to a future where individuals with Down syndrome are welcomed into more inclusive societies that assure them of their human rights.