



Policy Proactivity: Tips and Tricks

But I'm too busy...

Governmental Affairs for ICASE

- + Nikki Sprunger and Ann Higgins (NE)
- + Linda Holland and Anthony Laingrin (NW)
- + Jenny Smithson (Co-chair) and Kimberly Whybrew (E)
- + Linda Watkins and Julie Wolfe (C)
- + Patti Kem and Sharon Pelley (NC)
- + Alex Brewer and Dustin Betz (SE)
- + Tammy Hurm (Co-Chair) and Susan Cobb (SW)
- + Mary Burton (Past-President)

Kelli Waggoner, ICASE GA Consultant

- + Talks to GA Co-chair, Tammy Hurm daily during legislative session and about an hour per week during other times of the year.
- + Contact liaison for all government offices including the DOE.
- + Keeps the GA committee apprised of all committee schedules and votes/opportunities for testimony.
- + Talks to other lobbyists for organizations with similar interests and other important people on our behalf.
- + Organizes the legislative breakfast (all aspects)
- + Can set up meetings for us with her access to LA's that we could not do otherwise.

Cont. Kelli Waggoner's Support

- + Acts as a sounding board for our testimony and talking points—makes recommendations to get us to our end game.
- + Provides guidance on strategy for our Legislative Platform.
- + Sends out committee summaries to the GA committee.
- + Makes the weekly bill track to share with us.
- + Keeps us informed of all movement on bills during session.
- + Let's us know the best person to talk to about our concerns and needs.

Does My Voice Really Matter?

- + A resounding YES!
- + What do you care about so passionately that you think about it all of the time?
- + What gets in the way?
- + What tips and tricks can help you make sure you are heard?

Why is my Voice Important?

- + Legislators listen to their constituents if they hear the same information over and over.
- + Legislators are not experts in most areas of policy. They count on their aides and constituents to educate them.
- + If you leave it to someone else, your legislator might never hear what they need to hear.

Who are my Indiana Legislators?

- + State: Go to <https://iga.in.gov>
 - + Under the Information tab, click on “Find Your Legislator”
 - + Enter your street address and zip code
- + Federal for Indiana:
 - + Senators Joe Donnelly and Todd Young
 - + Representatives Susan Brooks, Todd Rokita, Jackie Walorski, Luke Messer, Peter Visclosky, Andre Carson, Larry Bucshon, Trey Hollingsworth and Jim Banks.
 - + Some of these will change in January 2019. All House Members and Senator Donnelly are up for reelection.

Indiana General Assembly Website

- + <https://iga.in.gov>
- + Under “Legislation,” click on “Bills.” They are listed by number.
- + Amendments are found in committee packets.
- + Committees and calendars are listed here as well.

Elevator Speeches

- + When you speak to a legislator or their legislative aide, you only get about 10 minutes if you are lucky. Usually less.
- + It is important to practice your elevator speech on the topic of concern.
- + It's okay to have notes with you or preferably a handout for the legislator to keep.

Preschool Special Education Funding

- + No increase since 1991, but more numbers served have increased from 4,004 (1991) to 13,065 (2017).
- + We get less (\$2750) than On My Way PreK (\$6,000+) and special education costs are higher.
- + On average, public schools are only receiving 40% of what it costs to run their preschool programs and the rest must come from the public school's general fund (ICASE PreK Survey)
- + Tell them the ask: We want you to consider supporting a bill that will increase funding for public special education preschools as one small step toward healing public school general funds. (You would add the bill number and who is sponsoring it).

IN DOE Legislative Priorities for 2019

Operational Effectiveness

- Advocate for an increase in tuition support
 - Advocate for closing the gap in pre-K special education funding
 - Request a funding increase for the following instructional and operational areas
1) assessment, 2) curricular reimbursement, and 3) English Learners
 - Allow schools to retain 100% of their Medicaid program funds
 - Allow greater opportunities for teachers by eliminating the 30-day resignation hold
 - Expand Indiana's reciprocity statutes to create more opportunities for educators
 - Restore communication disorder emergency permits for speech language pathologists
 - Advocate for coaches and referees convicted of identified offenses having their IHSAA certification(s) suspended or revoked
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Follow Up Questions

- + Be prepared to answer follow up questions from your legislators or their LAs.
- + Read the Governmental Affairs notes from the executive committee meetings and talk to your Roundtable Reps at RT meetings. They are following everything important!
- + If you don't know an answer, tell them you will write it down and find out for them. Always keep your word on this!
- + Send a thank you note after any visit.

How to track Federal Legislation

- + <https://www.govtrack.us>
- + You can find your Senators and Representatives for your district here.
- + See what committees they serve on in Congress.
- + You can receive alerts and get statistical analysis of various legislation
- + You can search bills by subject and see who is sponsoring the legislation.

Other Sources to Stay Informed and Participate

- + <http://www.chalkbeat.com>
 - + Sign up for emails—choose the Indiana edition.
 - + Clear and concise high points of weekly happenings in Indiana during the legislative session.
- + <https://www.countable.us>
 - + Search by the issues you care about
 - + See trending bills
 - + Follow legislators and how they vote on the issues
 - + Also has an app for your smartphone

Writing to your Senator or Representative

- + Include a header with the date and your contact info—they need to know you are a constituent
- + If sending an email, include your contact info in the signature.
- + Always address them as Senator or Representative and their last name.
- + Tell them your stance on the legislation. Include the bill number and the bill's sponsor. "I'm writing to you concerning my stance on SB475 Developmental Delay legislation sponsored by Senator Melton."

More notes on letter writing...

- + Include a personal narrative to support your stance.
- + Thank them for their time and service.
- + Let them know you are available to answer questions (if applicable).

CEC Legislative Action Center

- + <http://www.cec.sped.org>
- + Click on Policy and Advocacy
- + The Take Action selection will allow you to sign up for email alerts when there is something CEC would like its members to address with their legislators.
- + The Current Special/Gifted Education Issues selection will show you policy briefs for more information on select issues and other spotlight issues.

HB 610 Facebook Chain Letter

- + Bill introduced and referred to the House Labor and Education Committee in January of 2017. It has not moved since.
- + Removes all healthy food regulations from school enacted during the Obama Administration.
- + Drastically limits the authority of the Department of Education to giving block grants to the states that “qualify” for funds. No oversight other than the following:
- + To qualify, states must give a voucher to every family for each school-aged child to be used in a public, private, charter, or home school setting.

ASK US!

- + Your Governmental Affairs Committee is here to help!
- + Email or text your Roundtable Rep and they can find out information to support you and your efforts.