

# Advocacy for Out-of-School Time Programs

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# Social Justice Advocacy

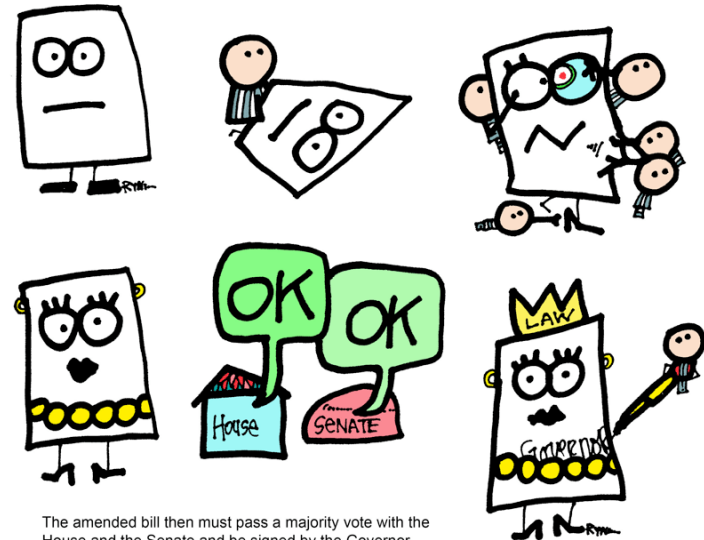
- “The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”

~ Jane Addams

# How a Bill Becomes Law

- Steps to bill passage
- Bill draft requests (BDR)/Bills
- Committee referrals
- How to follow a bill
- Hearing protocol

A bill is born from an idea that comes to a legislator, who brings the bill to a committee formed to poke, prod and otherwise amend the bill until it's to their liking.



# Nevada's Legislature

- Deadlines
- 120-day session
- Obstacles-legislators' time
- Meet every two years
- Interim committees and studies
- Citizen legislature- most legislators have “regular” jobs in the off-session!

# 2011 Political Climate

- Senate (11 Democrat, 10 Republican)
- Assembly (26 Democrat, 16 Republican)
- Governor (Republican)

# 2011 Deadlines

- March 21 Legislator's Bill Introductions
- April 15 Committee Passage (First House)
- April 26 First House Passage
- May 20 Committee Passage (Second House)
- May 27 Second House Passage

# 2011 Bills

[www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)

Bill #		Description	Requestor
	201	Revises provisions relating to background checks of certain persons who work with children.	<b>Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice (NRS 218E.705)</b>
	239	Designates Children's Day to honor children.	<b>Senator Breeden</b>
	782	Makes various changes relating to education.	<b>Assemblywoman Diaz</b>
<u>SB27</u>	24	Requires persons who operate childcare facilities to complete continuing education relating to childhood obesity, nutrition and physical activity.	<b>Senator Wiener</b> Senate Health & Human Services Feb. 15, Amend, do pass as amended
	77	Revises provisions governing crisis response plans for schools.	<b>Senator Wiener</b>
<u>SB247</u>	112	Authorizes the Health Division to facilitate and encourage the development of comprehensive health centers in public schools.	<b>Senator Wiener</b>
<u>SB53</u>	242	Revises definition of "child care facility" to exclude programs provided by local governments for school age children from certain licensing requirements.	<b>Henderson, City of</b>

# Monitoring and Tracking

- Legislative website: [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)
- Share your opinion on-line!
  - [www.leg.state.nv.us/AppCF/Opinion/76th2011/Poll](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/AppCF/Opinion/76th2011/Poll)
- Attend a hearing:
  - Most hearings are available to watch on-line, or
  - Via teleconference at Grant Sawyer Building  
(Washington & Las Vegas Blvd.)
- Utilize committee secretaries
- Free Bill Tracker- track up to 10 bills for free
  - <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Subscriber/>

# Advocacy vs Lobbying

- Advocacy
  - Education and awareness of broad issues
  - Informs about how policy decisions impact service provision
  - Does not endorse specific legislation
- Lobbying
  - the intention of influencing decisions made by legislators and officials in the government by individuals, other legislators, constituents, or advocacy groups.
  - the Internal Revenue Service makes a clear distinction for nonprofit organizations which limits them to "asking policymakers to take a specific position on a specific piece of legislation, or that ask others to ask the same"
  - Non-profits are limited to 10% of their budget toward lobbying activities

# Advocacy vs Lobbying

- Examples of Advocacy

- Organizing rallies and marches
- Providing invited testimony to legislators
- Informational meetings with legislators
- Distributing legislative updates **without** a call to action (our call of action is to get involved but doesn't ask people to say something specific)
- Encouraging the public to register and vote
- Letter-writing, e-mail and phone campaigns not associated with specific legislation

- Examples of Lobbying

- Meeting with legislator to discuss endorsing or opposing specific legislation
  - Call to Action
  - Organizing a public letter-writing campaign, urging support or opposition of specific legislation
  - Distributing information about specific legislation to members urging communication with legislators
- This also includes all research, planning and preparation involved in deciding to lobby

# Getting Your Message Heard

- Get to know legislator/protocol
  - Constituents/citizens get more attention: meet with leg. In your district if you can (make sure you dress appropriately)
  - Bring Data and personal stories
    - Leave them with a handout for a reminder
  - Be prepared to present both sides of an issue
    - Shows you are knowledgeable
    - They will hear the other side from other groups anyway
  - Listen – ask how they feel about a bill or topic
    - Make sure you relate your message to that legislator,
    - make sure they know it affects them, it is happening in their neighborhood
  - Compromise when necessary

# Getting Your Message Heard

- Different ways to contact them (email, letters, calls).
- Utilize coalitions/networks
- Distribute jobs according to talents
- Target legislators
- Get supportive legislators to assist you

# Writing Testimony/Speaking

- Short, bulleted points- fact sheets work well
- Show support base
- Constituent visits
- Opposition research/opponents arguments
- Be truthful and accurate- if you don't know, say you'll find out and get back to them
- Listen, find points of agreement

# Utilizing The Press

- How to tell your story (conflict, human interest, prominence of person, impact, timeliness)
- Sound bites
- Press releases
- Calls to TV/radio newsrooms
- Prepare for controversial questions/opponents viewpoints
- Power in numbers
- Always return phone calls to reporters-always

# How You Can Get Involved

## Now

- Talk to Legislators
- Testify
- Media

## Long-Term

- Continue to work with existing organizations like NAN
- Voter registration-your vote does count
- Prepare testimony and testify at a hearing
- Consider running for office

# Nevada Afterschool Network

- NAN's mission is to support and facilitate opportunities for all school-age youth to participate in quality out-of-school time (OST) programs
- NAN brings together community groups to improve outcomes for youth through school-linked OST programs
- NAN encourages policymakers to invest resources to meet the needs of OST programs, including quality and sustainability

# How You Can Support NAN's Work

- Become a member of NAN
- Participate in NAN committees and Taskforces
- Talk with family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues about NAN, OST programs, and BDR 782
- Submit information regarding your OST program for the NAN Showcase during *Every Child Matters Week* at Legislature April 18-22
- Contact your legislative representatives about the importance of OST programs

# NAN Committees and Taskforces

- **Finance:** Chair, Sharyn Peal
- **Bylaws & Nomination:** Chair, Marty Elquist
- **Marketing & PR:** Chairs, Wendy Weisbart & Jama Sutfin
- **Policy:** Chair, Julie Woodbury
- **Quality & Evaluation:** Chair, Denise Benson
- **Fundraising:** Chair, Janice Layman
- **Professional Development:** Chair, Jackie Reilly

# NAN Defines OST Programs

- Out-of-school time (OST) programs operate ten hours or more per week on an on-going basis serving school-age (K-12) children. OST programs provide regularly scheduled, structured and supervised activities where learning opportunities take place outside the typical school day. OST programs may occur before school, after school, weekends, or during seasonal and track breaks.

# NAN Defines OST Programs

- Out-of-school time programs provide multiple activities. In this definition OST programs do not include single focused activities such as religious education (CCD classes), music lessons (piano practice), sports practice (little league), tutoring, or school-based clubs (debate team). NAN believes these single focused activities serve an important purpose but are not defined as out-of-school time programs.

# NAN Supports BDR 782

- Exempts OST programs from child care licensing requirements
- OST programs may voluntarily record their program
- Recorded OST programs adhere to quality program standards
- Establishes of a multi-agency task force to adopt quality program standards
- Establishes an interim study group sponsored by NAN to research out-of-school time programming needs, trends, and opportunities throughout the state

# Proposed Program Standards

1. Indoor/Outdoor Environment
2. Youth, Family, Community Relationships
3. Program Structure, Curriculum, and Activities
4. Health and Wellness
5. Staff Development and Training
6. Positive Youth Development
7. Inclusion and Diversity
8. Evaluation

# NAN's Tools to Support Advocacy

[www.nevadaafterschoolnetwork.org](http://www.nevadaafterschoolnetwork.org)

- OST program facts and impact stories
- 2011 Legislative session information
- Advocacy tools

# Sample Letters to Legislators

- Reason for letter and who you are
- Personal success story
- Summarize your message

# Creating an Elevator Speech

- Focuses on one or more of the following
  - Your work with NAN
  - Your experience with OST programs
  - The importance of OST program standards throughout the state
- Opens the door to further discussion

# Training Summary

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- The legislative process
- How to advocate
- Getting your message heard
- How to get involved
- NAN's policy work
- Tools to be successful