



Legislative Advocacy
(Part 1)
Not Me!

Agenda

A hand holding a red marker is shown underlining the word 'Agenda'. The background features a blurred American flag.

1. What is Advocacy?
2. How I begin to advocate?
Who do I talk to/What do I say?
- 3.

Who is the Child Nutrition Expert?

- Works with School Food
- Understands the importance of nutrition
- Works directly with students, parents and staff
- Is a voter
- Has a story or two about school nutrition
- Loves the Kids!



YOU are the Expert



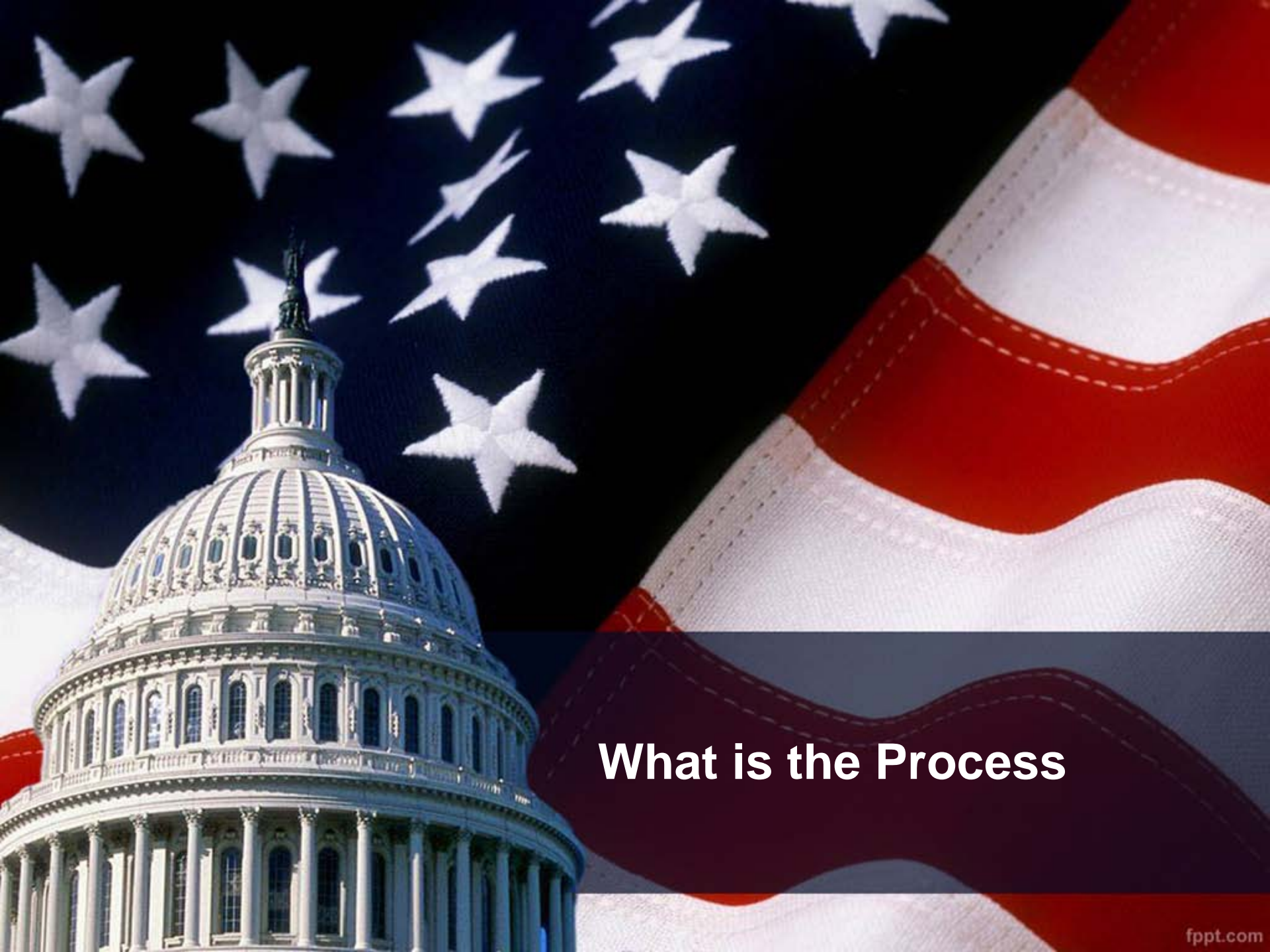
What can I do?

Create a relationship..

When Legislators talk in committee

they vote....

They need your story to inform their votes!



What is the Process

What is the Process?



Areas of Advocacy

- Legislative
- Budget
- Bureaucratic

Talk to the **right person** to get it done!

The Advocacy Process

Who?

Who makes the decision on the issue?

- Federal vs State

Type?

What kind of issue determines who to talk to.

- Regulatory?
- Legislative?
- Ministerial?

Legislature- such a BIG word

Different than your Civics Class

Makeup and Process



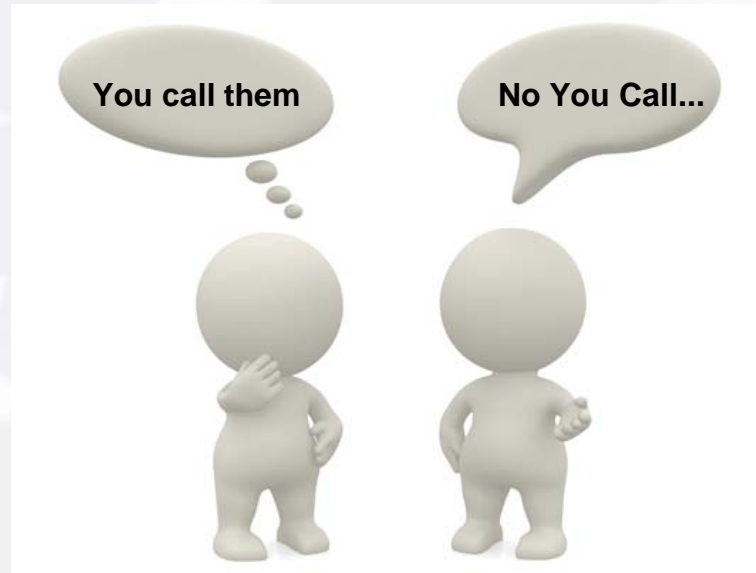


Making a connection

Build a Relationship

Communicate

- Letter
- Phone call
- Email
- Meeting



Make a Connection

- Office Staff
- Committee Staff
- Staff to each house

Build a Relationship

Attend events

Invite them to events

Visit the local office

Visit the Capitol office



Phone Calls

Call are a good 1st step...

- Make appointments
- Make connections



Don't use for:

- messages on issues

Email

Important to email directly to an aide in charge of the issue

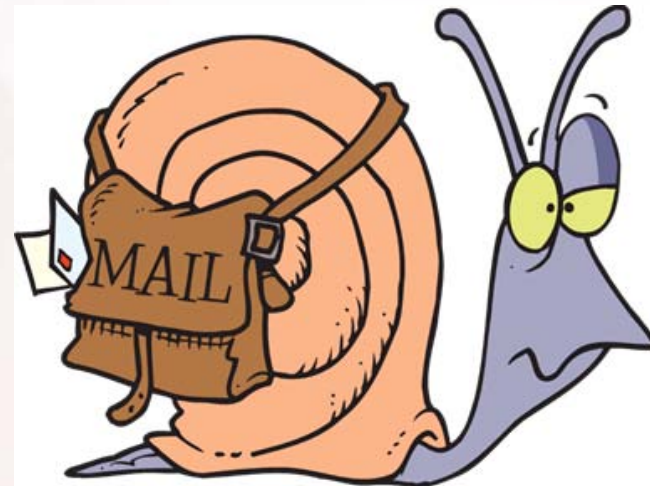
Be:

Clear- Specific- Accurate



US Postal Service

Write a personal letter/note



Meet Face to Face



The best way to communicate is in person.

Meet with the legislator **or their staff** at their district office.

Meet & follow up with legislators and staff in their capitol offices.

The CSNA members who participated in last year's Legislative Action Conference and met with their legislators found their meetings to be beneficial .

You scheduled a Meeting

You have contacted the office
Made an Appointment
Scheduled your meeting



Do Your Homework!

- Understand the issue on which you are advocating
- Know the position you would like your representative to take for you
- Are you in support or opposition of a bill?
- Gather knowledge on the person who you are addressing
- What position has the representative taken on similar issues?
- Are they known for supporting or opposi

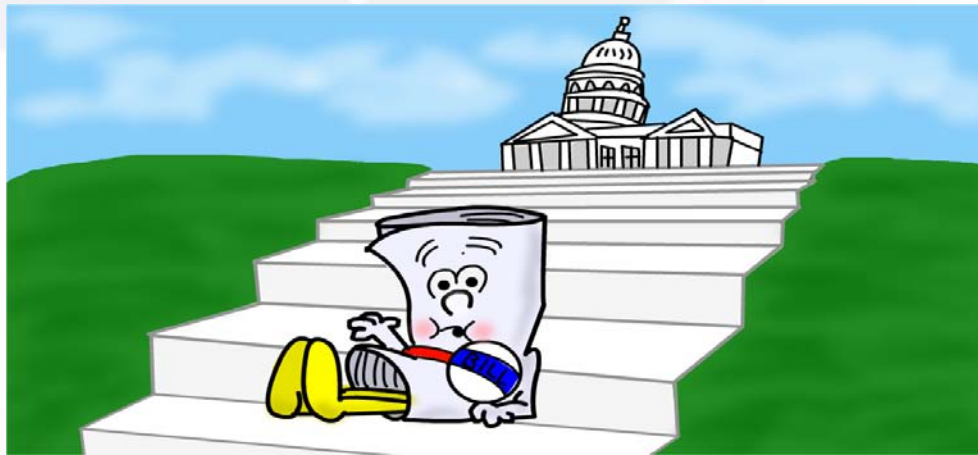


Know the Bill

What Committee is it in?

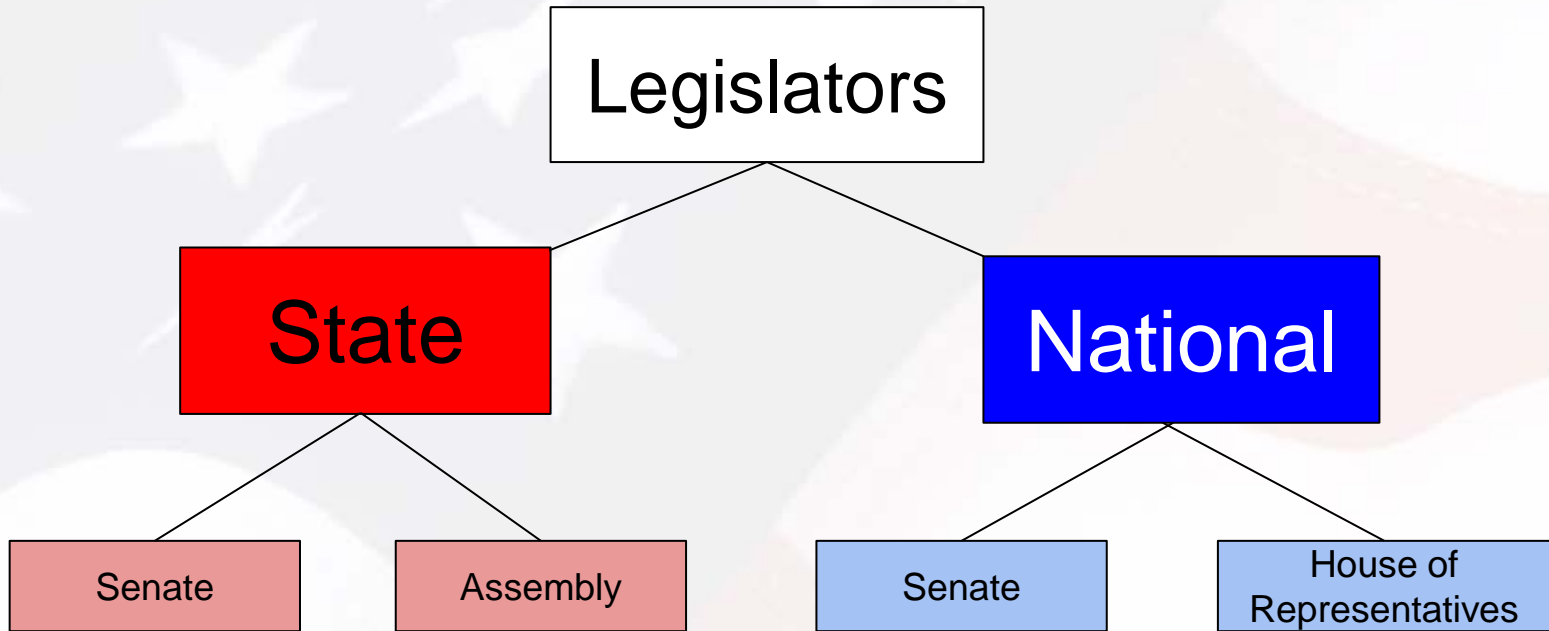
How does it stand?

What do you want the Legislator to DO?



(<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>)

Who Represents You?



REMEMBER BOTH
HOME & WORK

Know who represents you

Find your legislators:



What are they involved in?

Committees?

Issues?

Passions?

State Legislature

Find your State Representatives
Assembly & Senate



Remember
Work and Home

US Federal Legislators

United States House of Representatives

California has **53** representatives

Find your Federal Representative



California –US Congress

California has two US Senators



Dianne Feinstein

Democrat
Since Nov 10, 1992
Next Election in 2018



Barbara Boxer

Democrat
Since Jan 5, 1993
Next Election in 2016

California –US Congress

California has New US Senator

Now you Know

- Why Legislators need you
- The Legislative Process
- Areas of Advocacy
- How to build relationships
- How to research legislators
- How to research issues/bills



Its time to...



Invitation... (More)

"Legislative Advocate?...
I'm Ready, Now What?"

(Legislation Part 2)

Session E

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.



Thank
you



Resources

Find Your Legislator

Federal

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

State

http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html

Resources



Public Policy & Legislation

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