



## Advocating vs. Lobbying

Individuals acting on their own can pursue any type of advocacy.

Lobbying for specific legislation or political parties is off-limits to many non-profit organizations.

The following are not considered lobbying:

- Communicating with or educating decision-makers and the general public about the general importance of policies.
- Advocating for specific policies considered by non-legislative groups (e.g. retailer associations, school boards, state boards of health, public transportation authorities).
- Advocating for issues among audiences such as state attorney general, regulatory authorities, administrative agencies, or police authorities for additional or more effective law enforcement or regulation.
- Advocacy aimed at governmental executives, as long as you are not asking them to promote, discourage, or veto legislation.
- Public interest litigation or related judicial activities.
- Developing policy positions that are different than a specific legislative proposal.
- Testifying before legislative committee (if the committee has requested testimony) or testifying on a subject that involves an organization's own self-defense.
- Distributing voter registration material, as long as it provides a non-biased representation of the positions of all candidates' ideas and presents a broad range of issues.