

CHADD'S RULES FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

Do	DON'T
<p>Do Believe Your Voice Matters. You vote and you live in the district. Your concerns have much more weight than a professional lobbyist.</p>	<p>Don't Ever Think Policy Makers are Uninterested in Your Input. Any paid advocate is tainted with vested interest. You have much more credibility.</p>
<p>Do Consult with CHADD Public Policy Staff at: (301) 306-7070 ext 109 or by Email at: publicpolicy@chadd.org</p>	<p>Don't Go Unprepared to a Meeting. Policy makers expect you to be prepared and to the point. You want to know the issue, have facts and be able to tell them what needs to be changed.</p>
<p>Do Know Your Facts. Use Fact Sheets from the National Resource Center at http://www.help4adhd.org/ and CHADD information from the Public Policy Section of www.chadd.org.</p>	<p>Don't Just Voice Opinions. Everyone will have an opinion on all sides of an issue, but if your comments are supported by facts and figures, you will have far more influence.</p>
<p>Do Offer Alternative Language or Ideas. Be constructive. Give the policy maker some alternatives.</p>	<p>Don't Just Complain. You will be much more effective if you have an alternative proposal.</p>
<p>Do Say You Are a CHADD Member. This is a statement of fact that tells the policy maker you are concerned about AD/HD without making your comments official CHADD policy.</p>	<p>Don't Say you Represent CHADD. While this may appear to be a fine distinction it is an important one. We do not want you to be limited to only CHADD official policy.</p>
<p>Do Vote and Participate Individually in the Election Campaign Process. This is the right and responsibility of every citizen.</p>	<p>CHADD Chapters May Not Participate in ANY Election Campaign. Do not invite candidates to any chapter activities and do not lend chapter support to any candidate. This is a violation of CHADD's nonprofit status.</p>
<p>Do Track and Report Any CHADD Expenses Incurred While Lobbying for Any State or City/County Legislation. This is an IRS requirement and an absolute must. This information goes to the national office with your quarterly financial report.</p>	<p>Don't Forget to Report CHADD Expenses for "Lobbying." This includes mileage, food, printing, mailing, phone calls, etc. If you don't track and report CHADD expenses, CHADD could lose its nonprofit status.</p>
<p>Do Say I Don't Know. When you don't have the answer you can always get back to the legislator or policy maker with the correct information.</p>	<p>Don't Try to Answer Questions When You are Unsure of the Answers. You'll get caught every time. Just make sure you responded with the information requested.</p>
<p>Do Advocate for Access to All Medications for AD/HD. You will appear to be advocating for all people with AD/HD.</p>	<p>Don't Advocate for Coverage of a Specific Medication. You will appear to be lobbying for the interest of a pharmaceutical company.</p>
<p>Do Follow Up After a Meeting. Always follow up with a thank you letter and any additional information.</p>	<p>Don't Assume Your Work is Done. Follow up to see what action has been taken. Write and make another appt. to continue the conversation.</p>