



# **Policy and You: How Advocacy Can Be a Part of Your Vocabulary**

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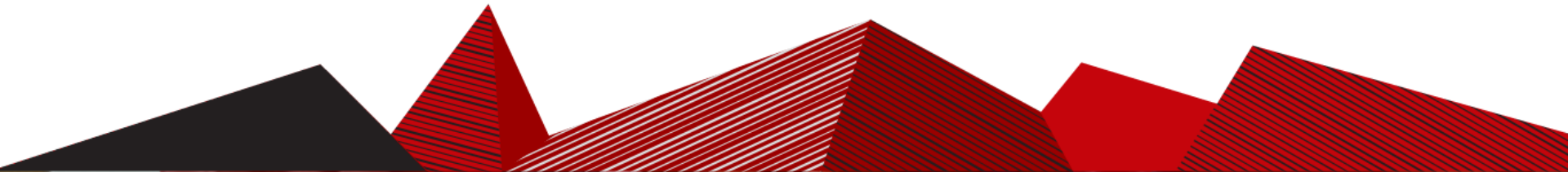




Image taken from: <https://www.rti.org/us-government>

# Advocacy

Merriam-Webster defines advocacy as, “the process of supporting a cause or proposal”.

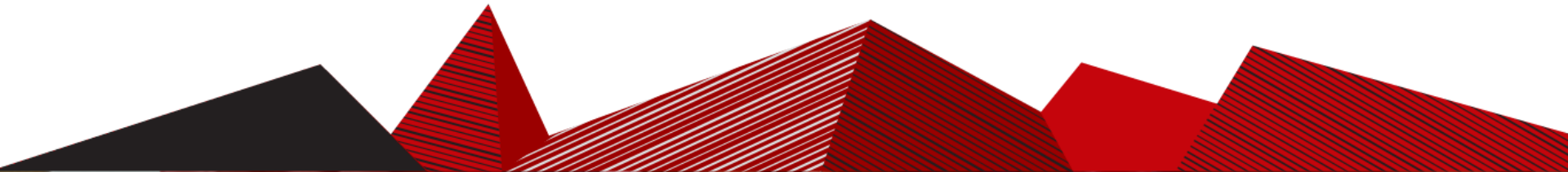


# Outline

- Overview of Government Structure
- Advocacy Makes a Difference
- Current Issues
- What Can You Do?
- Resources



Image taken from: <https://social.ogilvy.com/how-much-advocacy-is-going-on-in-social/>





# THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

## THE US CONSTITUTION

The framers of the Constitution wanted to be sure that no one person or group had too much power. They created a system of checks and balances. They separated the government into three branches. The three branches are separate but equal. Each branch can "check" the power of the other branches. The three branches work together to govern our nation.



### LEGISLATIVE

makes laws



### EXECUTIVE

carries out laws



### JUDICIAL

evaluates laws

#### CONGRESS

Senate

**100**  
SENATORS

- elected every 6 years
- must be at least 30 years old, must have been a US citizen for at least 9 years, and must live in the state they represent

House of Representatives

**435**  
REPRESENTATIVES

- elected every two years
- must be at least 25 years old, must have been a US citizen for at least 7 years, and must live in the state they represent

#### PRESIDENT



- elected every four years
- must be at least 35 years old, a US citizen, and must have lived within the US for at least 14 years



Vice President



Cabinet

#### SUPREME COURT



**9 Justices**

- nominated by the president and confirmed by a majority Senate vote
- hold office as long as they choose to stay

other  
Federal Courts

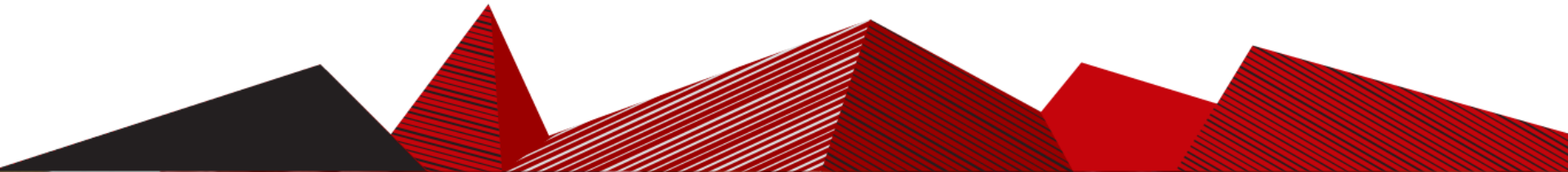


# How You Fit In



# Advocacy Works!

- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act (H.R. 1539, S. 652)
  - Legislation first approved in 2000, re-authorized in October 2017
  - This legislation reauthorized funding for important EHDI programs over the next five years.



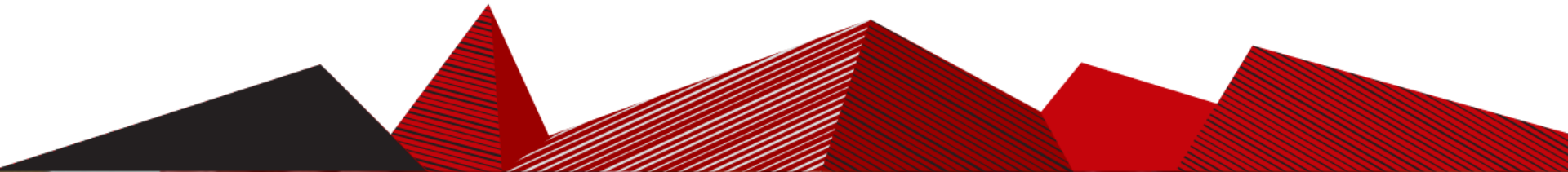
# Current Issues

- School Based Funding

- Need to defend and support funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Oppose any efforts to further restrict or limit payment on school-based Medicaid services for children with special needs.

- Higher Education Reauthorization

- Protects current eligibility requirements for programmatic accreditors, such as the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).
- Current proposals limits the amount of money graduate students, including those seeking a clinical doctorate in audiology or a master's degree in speech-language pathology can borrow from federally-funded student loan programs.
- Loan forgiveness provisions would be eliminated in current proposal.





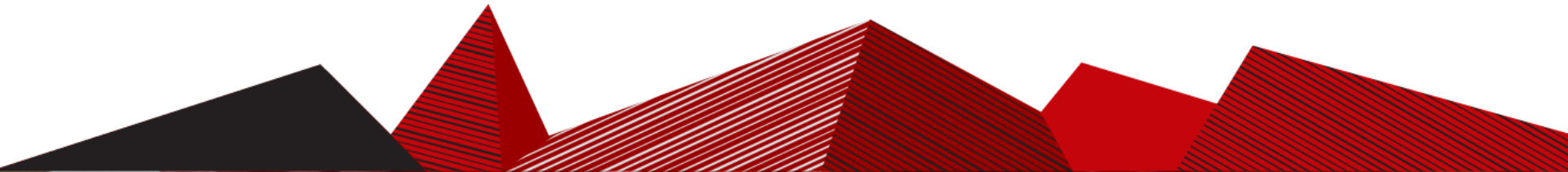
# What Can You Do?

- Contact your Legislator
  - Write a letter
  - Send an email
  - Make an in-person visit
  - Make a phone call
  - Share your story

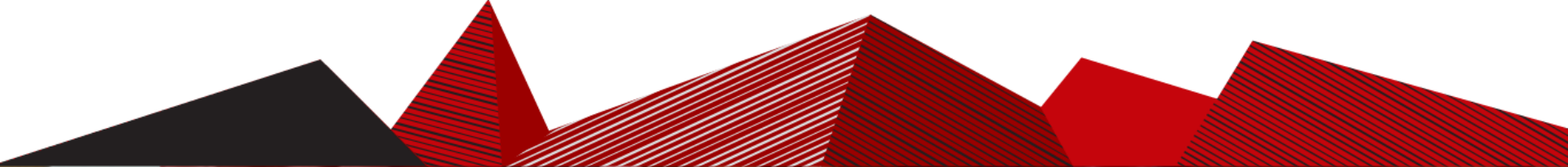


# Getting Started: Planning a Visit With Your Legislator

1. Register to vote! If it is election time, vote!
2. Research your legislator. Do they share your views?
3. Set up an appointment.
4. Determine which issues to discuss. (1 or 2)
5. Make a “Leave Behind” for the legislator or staffer.
6. Make your position personal.

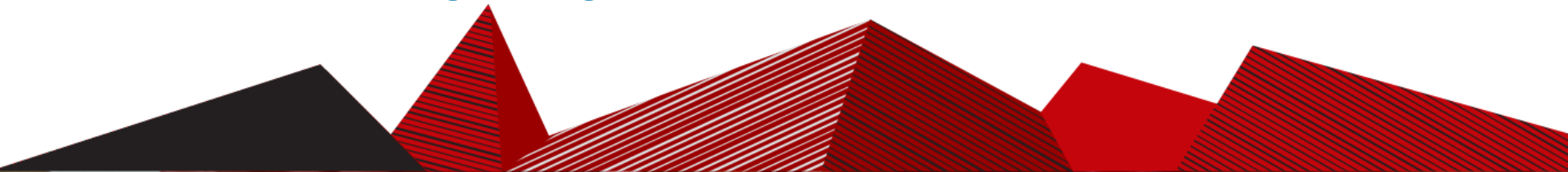


# Get Involved



# Resources

- Who Represents You?  
<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
- Conducting a District Visit  
<http://www.audiology.org/sites/default/files/advocacyfiles/ConductingaDistrictVisit.pdf>
- Visiting a Local Congress Office  
<http://www.audiology.org/sites/default/files/advocacyfiles/KCVisitingLocalCongressOffice.pdf>
- AAA Legislative Action Center  
<http://capwiz.com/audiology/home/>
- ASHA Legislative Action Center  
<https://takeaction.asha.org/?1>
- Hands and Voices Advocacy Resource Page  
[http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/articles\\_index.html#adv](http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/articles_index.html#adv)
- Hearing Loss Association of America Tools for Advocacy  
<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/tools-advocate>

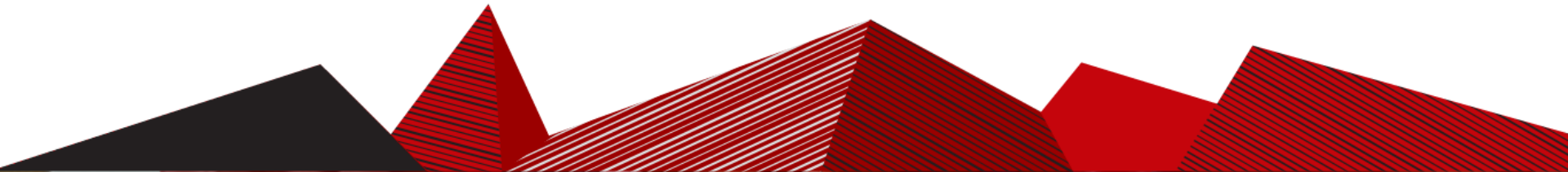


**ONE DAY OR DAY ONE.  
YOU DECIDE.**



# References

- <https://takeaction.asha.org/?12>
- <https://saa.audiology.org/>
- <https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained/the-legislative-process>



**THANK YOU!**

