

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT LOBBYING -50

- Meeting with a legislator to talk about a social problem, without mentioning a specific legislative proposal.
- Providing a legislator with educational materials about a specific piece of legislation, without calling for specific action on the legislation.
- Responding to a request from a legislative committee or subcommittee for information about a specific piece of legislation.
- Newsletter to membership providing information about a specific piece of legislation, your organization's position on the legislation and the names of legislators who support and oppose the legislation -- but not a specific call to action.
- Tracking activities of legislators, including votes, positions taken, contributions accepted, etc.
- Producing and disseminating research reports or studies that provide nonpartisan analysis on policy issues, including specific legislative issues.
- Talking to the media about specific legislative proposals.
- Lobbying the executive branch (except to sign or veto a bill).
- Advocating the enactment and enforcement of private or voluntary policies, e.g. alcohol purchase restrictions in stadiums.
- Conducting public education campaigns to affect the opinions of the general public, e.g. a mass media educational campaign about the importance of not providing alcohol to minors.
- Inviting elected officials to participate in a community forum to discuss the problem of underage drinking;
- Advocating for better enforcement of existing laws, e.g. those that control alcohol sales to minors.
- Lobbying regulatory agencies at all levels (e.g. BATF, FDA, state health departments, etc.);
- Encouraging the community to call your organization for more information about what they can do to help;
- Engaging in media advocacy explaining the high underage drinking rates in your county, how your program has succeeded in addressing them, what needs to be done;
- Inviting your elected official to visit your program.
- When key issues come up, organize a coalition conference call with legislator's DC staff to weigh in with your position.
- Coordinate efforts with national organizations working on federal underage drinking prevention advocacy

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- Independent Sector: <http://www.independentsector.org/>
- Nonprofit Action: <http://www.npaction.org/>
- Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest: <http://www.clpi.org/>
- To receive CSPI Action Alerts: <http://www.cspinet.org/takeaction/index.html>