

# Making Your Case

- Importance of Advocacy
- Being an Advocate
- Telling Your Story
- Visit with Legislators





# WELCOME

We are glad you are here





Family  
Driven



Non-Profit  
501(c)3





# Family Network on Disabilities

We do **NOT:**

act as  
Attorneys OR  
Doctors

What We **DO**

provide is:  
Information,  
Resources, and  
Support

## Thank you and Welcome





# Making Your Case

Importance of Advocacy



# Importance of Advocacy

Democracy

Registering to Vote

Voter Accessibility

You Can Make a Difference

Sample Campaign





First, and Foremost, **VOTE!** whatever you, whoever you vote for  
Get registered, get your friends and family registered, get out and vote

Importance of Advocacy





# VOTER REGISTRATION

<https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote>

Importance of Advocacy

# Accessible Voting for Persons with Disabilities

## **Receive personal help at the polls during early voting or on Election Day.**

You do not have to reveal the nature or extent of your disability. You can choose anyone to help you except your employer or an agency of your employer or an officer or agency of your union. You can alternatively get the help of two members of the Supervisor of Elections staff. See [section 101.051](#), Florida Statutes.

1. **Vote on a touch screen or other accessible marking device at the polls.** Voting on a touch screen allows you to vote with little or no assistance and in secret. Federal and state laws require at least one accessible voting system to be in each polling place. Florida has certified [accessible voting systems](#) for use by persons with disabilities. The systems meet at least 12 major categories of accessibility standards. See section 301(a)(3) of the [Help America Vote Act](#) (Public Law 107-252) and [section 101.56062](#), Florida Statutes.
2. **Vote-by-mail from the comfort of your home.** In addition, you can have anyone of, other than your employer, agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your union, mark the choices for you or have the person assist you in marking your choices on the ballot. See [section 101.661](#), Florida Statutes.
3. **Participate in supervised voting**, if made available at your assisted living or nursing home facility. See [section 101.655](#), Florida Statutes. You can also request that your vote-by-mail ballot be sent to you there.

More Information:

<http://bit.ly/2XumPPm>



# Persons with Disabilities Voter Rights

Your Right to Cast a Secret Ballot  
Independently

Polling Place Accessibility

Voting Options

Early Voting -By Mail- Day of

Voter ID- What to Know

**Importance of Advocacy**



To access the Florida Legislature's website, visit [Online Sunshine](#)

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ON DISABILITIES



# Remember...

these folks we're talking about, work for you –  
It's not enough that they were elected– is what they promised happening?

## **Democracy**

[dih-**mok**-ruh-see]

noun, plural **democracies**.

Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.

Example-

Its system of *democracy* ensures that people have a direct say in what happens in the USA.

“An educated, enlightened and informed population is one of the surest ways of promoting the health of a **democracy.**”

-Nelson Mandela

Importance of Advocacy









# Making Your Case

Partners in Policymaking  
Minnesota Governor's Council  
on Developmental Disabilities

[Partersonlinecourses.com](http://Partersonlinecourses.com)

The app, "Telling Your Story," helps you create and practice your personal story with tips on how to best present yourself, to help inform and educate your elected public officials about issues that are important to you.

[iPad version](#)

[iPhone/iPod Touch version](#)

[Amazon Kindle Fire HD version](#)

[NEW: Android tablet version from Google Play](#)

[NEW: The Android phone version from Google Play](#)

Partners in Making Your Case is available in

[Spanish. www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/makingyourcase-esp](http://Spanish.www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/makingyourcase-esp)

An American Sign Language version is also available and can be accessed directly at <http://www.mncdhh.org/makingyourcase>

Funding for this version was provided through the Telecommunications Access Fund, Minnesota Department of Commerce. Adaptations were made to best meet the needs of individuals who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.

DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Partners

in Policymaking®

**The World Is Run By  
Those Who Show Up!**

**Importance of Advocacy**

# You Can Make a Difference

- If lawmakers hear from **5 - 10** people

Forums

Town Meetings

Rallies & Marches

Forums

Importance of Advocacy

Your  
Opinion  
matters





# Advocacy includes....

educating policy makers and the public about broad social issues or encouraging people to register to vote

## **Advocacy**

[ad-vuh-kuh-see]

Noun, plural **advocacies**.

The act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending.

Example- *An example of an advocacy is a non-profit organization or person that works to help people with disabilities to speak for themselves.*

# “R Word- Spread the Word to End the Word”

**PLEDGE  
TO  
SHOW  
RESPECT**

SPREAD THE WORD  
TO END THE WORD

[www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org)



Importance of Advocacy



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# Making Your Case

Being an Advocate





# Being an Advocate

The Three “A’s” of Advocacy

Knowing Who You Talk to

In the District

Understanding the Rules

Knowing the Issues



# The Three “A’s” of Advocacy

## Awareness



## Advancement



## Action



Honesty... Get it out of your head that you can do anything else, even a little. Keep your eye on the ball.

## **Credibility**

cred·i·bil·i·ty

,kredə'bilədē/Submit

noun

the quality of being trusted and believed in.

"the government's loss of credibility"

synonyms: trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, integrity



# Knowing Who You Talk To

Which District or State?

Legislative Record?

Which Committees?

Where on Seniority Scale?

What Party?

Being an Advocate





# In the District

Engage in Discussions

Exchange Phone Calls

Be a Resource/  
Share Information

Be Willing to Take Action

Being an Advocate



# Knowing the Issues

Understand the Bills

Know Your Facts

Have a Clear Message

**Being an Advocate**

To access the Florida Legislature's website, visit [Online Sunshine](#)



# Understanding the Rules

Legislative Process

Find a Mentor

Being an Advocate

# Understanding the Rules

Learn Meeting  
Schedules

Legislative Etiquette

Your Emotions

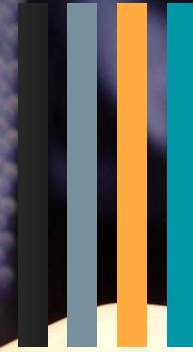
For Information on State Bills:

[www.leg.state.fl.us/](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/)



# Making Your Case

Telling Your Story





# Telling Your Story

Stories From the Heart

Organize Your Story

The Handwritten Letter

Phone Calls

Public Speaking



# Stories From the Heart

Turning Emotions Into Advocacy!

Telling Your Story in 30 Seconds  
or Less!

The “Ask”

Know Your Audience



Telling Your Story



# Organize Your Story

Specific

Personal

Informative

Timely

Telling Your Story

# Handwritten Letter

Never Send “Form Letters”

Make the Letter Personal

Identify Specific Legislation

Check Spelling, Gender, &  
Buzzwords

Story They Can Share





# Phone Calls

Timing is Crucial

Calls are Logged

A Few Brief Points

No More Than Five  
Minutes



# Public Speaking

It Gets Easier with Practice

Tell the **Truth**

Make Your Ask With Emotion

Prioritize Your Requests

Working With Props

Leave Materials With Them

Telling Your Story



# Public Speaking

Relax

Project Your Voice

Pace Yourself

Eye Contact

Humor, If Appropriate

**No Villains/No Ultimatums**



Telling Your Story



# Public Speaking

## *“What if I cry?”*

For even the most experienced speakers, telling a story that reveals a personal or emotional time can be difficult.

Crying is, of course, normal.

Keep going, don't feel embarrassed and feel the need to sit down.

Make your point.

**Telling Your Story**



# Making Your Case

Visit with Legislators



# Visit With Legislators

Identifying as a Constituent

Share Your Concerns

Follow-up

Legislative Days

More Tips





# Day at the Capitol

Make an Appointment

BE ON TIME!

Meet as a Group- Practice

Prepare Applicable Materials



# Day at the Capitol

## Testifying Before a Committee

- Talk with Your Group Before the Meeting to Strategize
- Sign in
- Formality in presentation
- Know the drill- “Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.”
- Make issues real
- Written testimony





# Day at the Capitol

How to Ask for a Meeting

The Meeting

Be Flexible





# Day at the Capitol

Introduce Yourself and Your Issue to Legislator/Staff/Aides

Close the Deal-*Cookies* & Business Cards

Do NOT Take Gifts!

Visit With Legislators

# Working with Staff

They Do MUCH of the Hands-On Work

Legislators Rely on Them for Advice and Guidance

Gatekeepers

Friend or Foe, Good Relationship

Florida House – One Aide  
Florida Senate – Two Aides



# Agendas/One-Pagers

**SPREAD THE WORD  
TO END THE WORD**



## Spread the Word to End the Word Action Kit

### KEY MESSAGES AND TALKING POINTS

It is time we **Spread the Word to End the Word™** and build awareness for society to stop and think about the use of the R-word. The word “retard” or “retarded,” is hurtful and painful and whether intended or not, is a form of bullying. Most people don’t realize this word is a form of hate speech, but that’s what it feels like to millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and friends. The R-word is just as cruel and offensive as any other slur. Visit [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org) to make your pledge today. Eliminating the use of this word is a step toward respect.

- Young people around the world are taking a stand and raising awareness of the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the R-word and are helping encourage others to think before they speak.
- Youth leadership and athlete advocacy is extremely important to our history and our future for the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign. Special Olympics is empowering individuals to speak up about the issue. Over 650,000 people have taken the pledge. Use this tweet-ready text to get the word out: *I pledge #Respect through my words & actions. Will you? Pledge now to create communities of inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities at <http://r-word.org>.*
- Did you know the increasing use of the R-word in today’s society further perpetuates the stigma and negative stereotypes that face people with intellectual disabilities?
- Special Olympics is leading a global youth movement via a new marketing campaign aimed at shifting the public’s misperceptions about the organization and people with intellectual disabilities. Through marketing activations and events, we will be challenging the youth of the world to

**Being an Advocate**



# Follow-up is Critical

Technology & Media-Petitions-Letters & Emails-  
Grassroots Strategies



Being an Advocate

# Legislative Days:

Developmental Disability  
Awareness Day  
@ Florida Capitol  
March 20, 2019

Remember to use the  
hashtag **#DDawareness19**  
throughout March.





# Legislative Days:

Children's Week  
@ the Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL

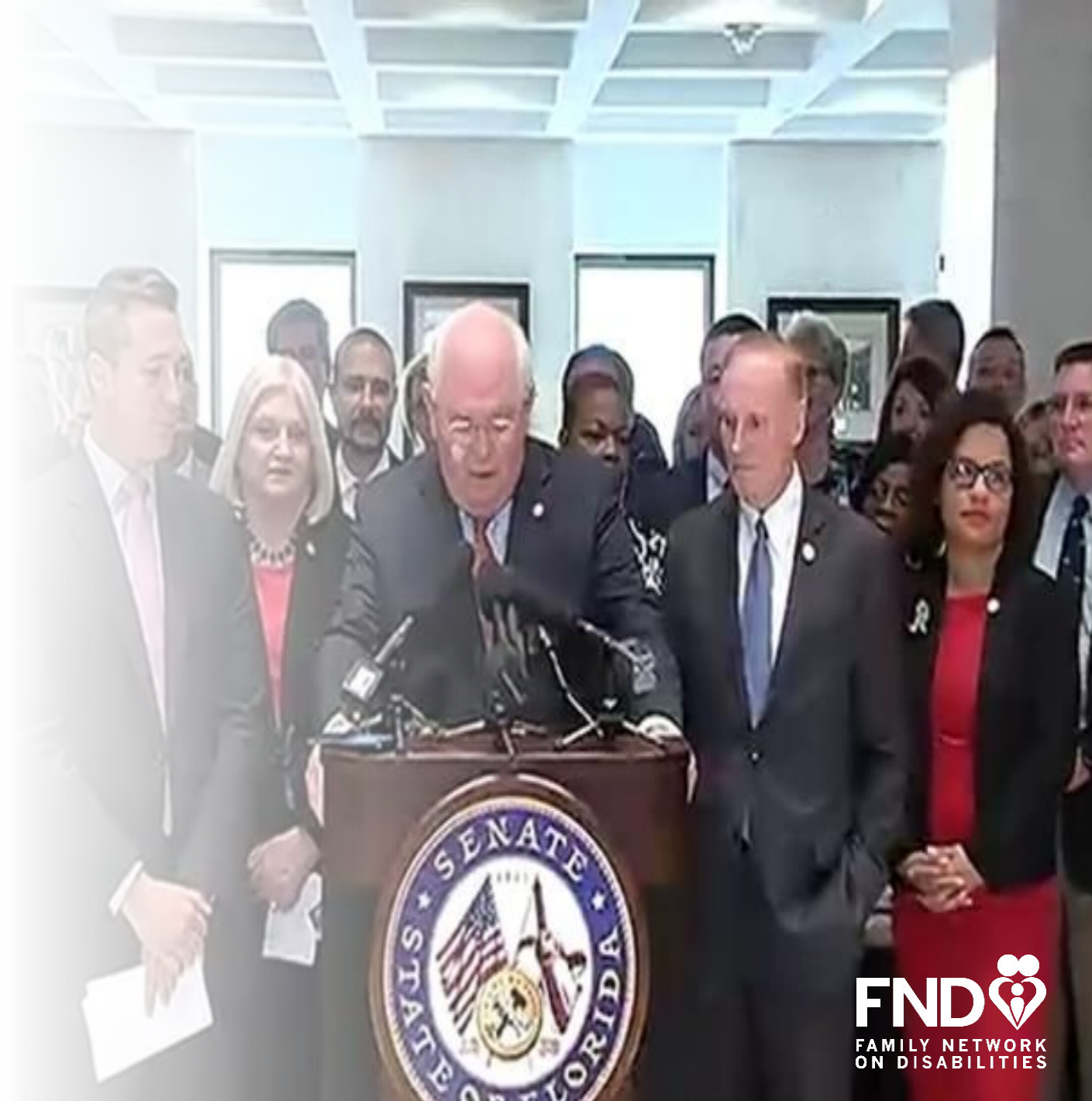
March 24th-March 26th

#ChildrensWeek





Tip #1:  
Educate Before  
You Legislate



Tip #2:  
Be Credible





# Tip #3: Don't Get Your Feelings Hurt

It's the Cause,  
Not You





Tip #4:  
5-15 Minute  
Meetings



# Tip #5: Participate in Elections

Don't Complain About the  
Problem Unless you are a  
Part of a Solution  
Vote-Just do it-Vote





**POPIN**  
PARENTS OF THE PANHANDLE  
INFORMATION NETWORK



**PSN**  
PARENT SUPPORT  
NETWORK



**PEN**  
PARENT EDUCATION  
NETWORK



**FAMILY  
STAR**  
SUPPORT, TRAINING,  
ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES



**FND**  
TRUST SERVICES



FND University

Digital Library-Biblioteca Digital

Transition Tool Kit

Tip Sheets

Disability Specific Resources

Public Resources

National Resources

Veterans Resource Directory

Archived Webinars

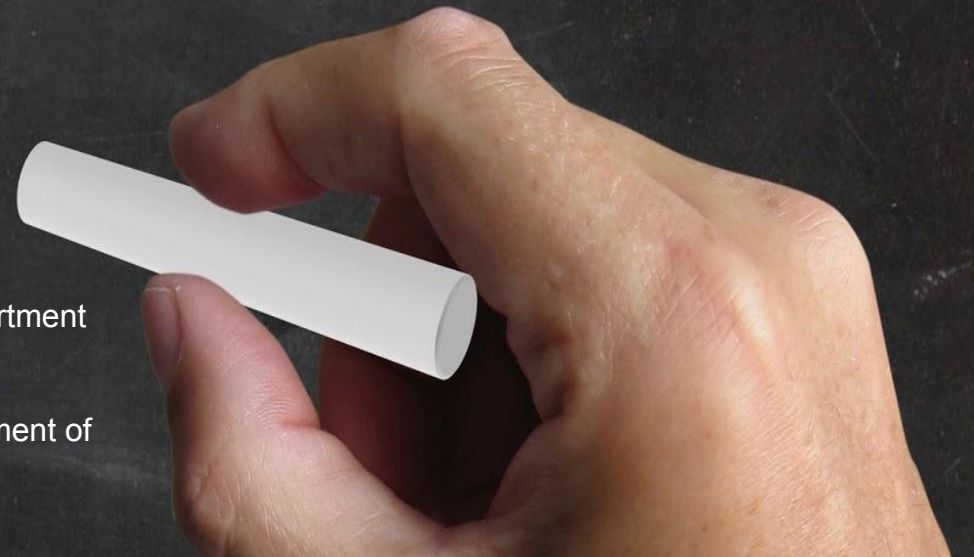
# FND UNIVERSITY

Here you will find our courses and resources  
in English

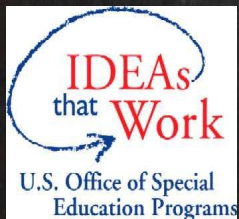
Aquí encontrarás nuestra cursos y infomación  
en español

# EVALUATION

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The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H328M150041, #H328M150041, & #H328M150041. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government. project Officer, David Emenheiser







**Thank you!**

For more information,  
please contact:

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