Why Do We Advocate

The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures and to call the entire church and other people of good will to do the same.

Catholic Charities USA
As people of faith, we are called to love and serve our neighbor—to speak out for what is right and just. Together, we can address the root causes of poverty and influence the systems that perpetuate poverty and suffering worldwide.
Why Do We Advocate

For the lay faithful, political involvement is a worthy and demanding expression of the Christian commitment of service to others. The pursuit of the common good in a spirit of service, the development of justice with particular attention to situations of poverty and suffering, respect for the autonomy of earthly realities, the principle of subsidiarity, the promotion of dialogue and peace in the context of solidarity: these are the criteria that must inspire the Christian laity in their political activity.

— 565 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church
Why Do We Advocate

As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life. the manner of this participation may vary from one country or culture to another. "One must pay tribute to those nations whose systems permit the largest possible number of the citizens to take part in public life in a climate of genuine freedom."

_1915 Catechism of the Catholic Church_
Why Advocate?

“The central message is simple: our faith is profoundly social. We cannot be called truly ‘Catholic’ unless we hear and heed the Church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.” – Communities of Salt and Light, U.S. Bishops. 1993

• Try to change an existing policy or to oppose a change

• Help create a new policy or law

• Leave fewer people along the roadside of life
Integrate and leverage the expertise of the Catholic Charities ministries on relevant federal policy concerns.

The CCUSA Advocacy and Social Policy team helps governments understand better the impact that poverty has on the American economy and family. We educate policymakers on the ways people in need are being served by their local Catholic Charities agencies. We also encourage those most affected by governmental decisions to share their experiences, which in turn helps to inform policies.
Advocacy is important for its impact on our work in the field.

CRS complements our humanitarian and development work overseas with policy analysis and advocacy at home. CRS analyzes global trends, selecting issues to focus on that will make the biggest difference in people’s lives. We advocate for issues that benefit the common good, such as:

- Supporting poverty-focused international assistance that helps refugees, children vulnerable to malnutrition, and people rebuilding their communities after disasters strike
- Working to end hunger around the world by advocating just policies in the Farm Bill and other anti-hunger legislation
- Protecting human life and dignity by addressing human trafficking.
Catholic Social Teaching

- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights & Responsibilities
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Preferential Option for and with the Poor and Vulnerable
- Care for Creation

Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Bringing Faith and Practice Together

THEOLOGY

EVIDENCE, EXPERIENCE & DATA

SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL WELFARE ‘PRACTICE’
Church Teachings

From Popes & Vatican Pronouncements

• Leo XIII *Rerum Novarum* (1891) through Francis *Laudato si’* (2015)
Church Teachings

From Bishops Conferences:
• Philippines: *What is Happening to Our Beautiful Land?* (1988)
How many members are in the U.S. House of Representatives?

a. 100
b. 400
c. 435
How many members are in the U.S. House of Representatives?

a. 100

b. 400

c. 435
Who of the following is NOT a current Pennsylvania senator (in the US Senate)?

a. Bob Casey
b. Lou Barletta
c. Pat Toomey
Who of the following is NOT a current Pennsylvania senator (in the US Senate)?

a. Bob Casey
b. Lou Barletta
c. Pat Toomey
Based on a survey, by what percentage has constituent correspondence increased in the House of Representatives from 2001 to 2017?

a. 78%
b. 1223%
c. 356%
Based on a survey, by what percentage has constituent correspondence increased in the House of Representatives from 2001 to 2017?

a. 78%
b. 1223%
c. 356%
House Congressional District Annual Constituent Mail Count

- 2001: 9,300
- 2011: 48,000
- 2017: 123,000

Copyright – Congressional Management Foundation
www.congressfoundation.org
Which advocacy tactic is most influential?

a. Letter
b. Phone Call
c. In-person meeting
Which advocacy tactic is most influential?

a. Letter
b. Phone Call
c. In-person meeting
If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the *Washington office* have on his/her decision?

- In-Person Issue Visits from Constituents: 94%
- Contact from Constituents' Reps: 94%
- Individualized Email Messages: 92%
- Individualized Postal Letters: 88%
- Local Editorial Referencing Issue Pending: 87%
- Comments During Telephone Town Hall: 87%
- Phone Calls: 84%
- Letter to the Editor Referencing Your Boss: 84%
- Visit From a Lobbyist: 83%
- Form Email Messages: 56%

[Legend: A Lot of Positive Influence, Some Positive Influence]
A personal meeting with a member of Congress is significantly more influential than meeting with a member of his/her staff.

a. True
b. False
A personal meeting with a member of Congress is significantly more influential than meeting with a member of his/her staff.

a. True

b. False
In your opinion, how important is each for understanding constituents’ views and opinions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings between staff and constituents</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications from rep’s of district/state based groups</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending events in the district/state</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings between the Member/Senator and constituents</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personalized messages from constituents</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District/state office hours</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-person town hall meetings</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone town hall meetings</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Very Important

Somewhat Important

Copyright – Congressional Management Foundation
Source – 2015 Perceptions of Citizen Advocacy
Where do members of Congress prefer to meet with their constituents?

a. Washington, D.C. office
b. At the in-district/state office
c. It doesn’t matter.
Where do members of Congress prefer to meet with their constituents?

a. Washington, D.C. office
b. At the in-district/state office
c. It doesn’t matter.
How far in advance should you request a meeting with a congressional office?

a. 1-2 weeks
b. 3-4 weeks
c. 5-6 weeks
How far in advance should you request a meeting with a congressional office?

a. 1-2 weeks
b. 3-4 weeks
c. 5-6 weeks
Survey Question

If your Member has not arrived at a firm decision on an issue, approximately how many email messages from people who represent many constituents (e.g., organization leader, elected official, business owner) does it take for your office to consider taking the action requested?
Which answer got the highest percentage in the survey?

a. Less than 10
b. 10-25
c. 26-75
Which answer got the highest percentage in the survey?

a. Less than 10
b. 10-25
c. 26-75
How many email messages from grassroots advocates does it take for your office to consider taking the action requested?

- Less than 10: 55%
- 10-25: 29%
- 26-75: 13%
- More than 75: 3%

Copyright – Congressional Management Foundation
Source – 2016 Legislative Correspondents Survey
When your Member is trying to develop new ideas for issues and legislation, which of the following activities is considered most important/influential?

a. Meetings with Interest Group Reps  
b. Site visits  
c. Meetings with VIPs/Community Leaders
When your Member is trying to develop new ideas for issues and legislation, which of the following activities is considered most important/influential?

a. Meetings with Interest Group Reps
b. Site visits
c. Meetings with VIPs/Community Leaders
Where Legislative Ideas Come From

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somewhat or Very Important</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with VIPs/Community Leaders</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with Constituents</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with Interest Group Reps.</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Visits</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Forces or Advisory Board Meetings</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Office Hours</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Meetings</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addressing PushBack

• Be clear about the issue.
• Know your objective
• Adopt a mindset of inquiry
• Manage emotions
• Preserve the relationship
Network Mapping Exercise

1. Pick a legislator (OR an issue).

2. Brainstorm individuals connected to that legislator or issue.
   – Professional, political, family, religious, education, neighborhood, donors
   – Government, nonprofit, business, faith-based, etc.
Network Mapping (continued)

3. Brainstorm institutions connected to that legislator or influential on that issue.
   – Professional, political, family, religious, education, neighborhood, donors
   – Government, nonprofit, business, faith-based, etc.

4. Map relational power lines.
Network Mapping (continued)

5. Classify and prioritize.
   – Core, primary, secondary/1, 2, 3, etc.

   – Follow-up
### Legislators or Issue

**Senator Joe Davis**

#### Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Bishop Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>State Catholic Conference Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Greg Porter, Hamilton University President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Andrea Thomas, local business owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sister Margaret Roth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Brad Sanders, Catholic Charities Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Bob Conway, Catholic former governor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Farming, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>O’Rourke College (Senator’s alma mater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Steelworkers’ Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>National Association of Realtors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Perryville High School (Senator’s alma mater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Presbyterian Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources from CCUSA

- E-advocacy tools provide access to policymakers through Catholic Charities USA website
  https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy/
- Assistance with advocacy activities
  - Trainings, etc.
- Washington Weekly
Resources from CRS

• Join our digital advocacy network *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, access our advocacy toolkit, and find other learning materials at confrontglobalpoverty.org.

• Read more about our work overseas and our policy positions at crs.org.

• Find prayer and education resources on the CRS Ministry Resource Center.
CCUSA Social Policy Team

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