



2011 Adopt-a-Legislator Advocacy Teams

Activities for February 2011

As an Advocacy Team Member, you are making a difference by staying in contact with your adopted legislator and nurturing interest in developmental disabilities issues throughout the 2011 legislative session.

Half of the legislators in Oregon have been adopted by advocacy team members, and we are continuing our efforts to ensure that all 90 Oregon state legislators are adopted this legislative session.

Whether you have done every advocacy activity so far or are just making contact with your legislator for the first time, it is important that you take action to connect with your adopted legislator **TODAY!**

☐ Mail your legislator a Valentine's Day Card

The legislative session is filled with difficult and heart-breaking decisions for the legislators to make. Even though we have very serious concerns about how these decisions may impact our lives, we want to find ways send our message in a fun way.

Special Tips: Select one of these two "Print and GO!" Valentine's Day Advocacy Cards below [2011 Legislator Valentine Card](#) ♥ [2011 Legislator Valentine Photo Card](#). For an extra special Valentine, add a picture and/or personal story and insert it in one of these cards or a different Valentine card of your choice. If you miss Valentine's Day Card, send a general greeting card with a personalized message.

☐ Call your legislator's office and get to know their staff

Your legislator's office staff keeps him or her informed about the issues their constituents (that's you!) feel are important. ***Special Tips:*** The more you get to know their staff the more likely your legislator will get a clear understanding of the issues that you care about. This is important for those that haven't heard back from their legislator yet. Include the name of the legislative staff you connected with in your advocacy updates. Oh, maybe even send the staff members a Valentine card, or email too! So, get their email address when you call.

February Adopt-a-Legislator Activities (Continued)

Track-a-Bill

Find a bill (proposed law) that is important personally important to you, then track it and get involved in supporting that bill! ***Special Tips:*** Look through the DD Coalition House and Senate Bill Watch List which will be updated frequently on the DD Coalition website in the Advocacy Overview section. Also search for more information about topics of interest on the Oregon Legislature Website http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/. For example: If you type in developmental disability in the search, you will find HB2600 relates to the delivery of support services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Listen to Testimony

Visit the Oregon State Legislature website and listen to testimony on a bill that is important to you and/or that your adopted legislator is involved in. ***Special Tips:*** Get familiar with the process by going to the Oregon State Legislature Audio/Video Page and scrolling down to the Audio Archive and click on 2011 Session and find the committee hearing archives: www.leg.state.or.us/listn/docs/comm.htm. Then, find the committee you are interested in hearing, select the most recent day, and listen. Listen to how citizens give testimony, and how legislators respond. You may be asked to listen to certain testimony at some point this legislative session and respond. You may also be asked to testify at a legislative hearing, so will give you good insight.

Use "Print and GO!" Advocacy Materials

These include a Birthday Card, Door Hangers, Calling Cards, Name Badges and Advocacy Campaign Stickers. ***Special Tips:*** As you know budget cuts are threatening needed DD services, and without continued funding, there are "Rough Waters Ahead" – which is the GO Project campaign theme for the legislative session. Go to the DD Coalition [website](#) to download the themed "Print and GO" Advocacy Materials to use as you connect with your adopted legislators and/or legislative staff.

"Canoe be at the Capitol?"

The question really is "Can you be the Capitol?" because developmental disability advocates need to be seen and heard at the Capitol. We are asking you to be at the Capitol building at least one day this session, and let us know in advance so we can coordinate a visible presence of DD advocacy there every week. ***Special Tips:*** Print [Fact Sheets](#) to give to legislators. Use the "Print and GO!" materials. Wear a name tag. Print and bring the calling cards to give to legislators and their staff. If no one is in the legislator's office, leave a door hanger so they know you stopped by. This is a chance to meet your legislator, and talk to many other legislators. Based on when you are scheduled to be at the Capitol, we may give you a specific message to say about certain bills that are being discussed at that time.

February Adopt-a-Legislator Activities (Continued)

❑ Take Advocacy Activity Photos

Take photos of yourself participating in GO! Project activities. Take photos every time you visit with your legislator or their staff! ***Special Tips:*** Legislators LOVE to have their pictures taken with their constituents, and we love to see them! Email or send us your photos, and we will post them on the DD Coalition website. You should also send these photos to your legislator / legislative staff as a thank you for your visit.

❑ DD Advocacy Rally Song Contest

Now is your chance to be really creative! We are looking for new words to the Row, Row, Row Your Boat song that best represents the message and talking points we are focusing on this year. We are planning to make a video that will include clips of different people singing the same song, then send it to legislators and post it on YouTube! Winners of the contest will have their name listed on the video. ***Special Tips:*** Here is a link to the original words and tune for Row, Row, Row Your Boat: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Row,_Row,_Row_Your_Boat. You can make as many verses as you like. Include "Developmental Disabilities" or "DD" and perhaps something about budget cuts, how services help you, how cuts to services will impact you, or a bill that is important to you. Send in your version of the DD advocacy boat song today!

Thank you Advocacy Team Members! Every activity counts and you are truly making a difference! Please send your advocacy update to the GO Project Coordinator, Cheryl Cisneros via email at info@oregonddcoalition.org as activities are completed.

Now, Let's GO!