

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



MOMS *for*
★ **LIBERTY** ★

**A government of laws,
and not of men.**
-John Adams

HOW WE FIGHT

Many of the ways we fight are supported by our Legislative Program.

HOLD LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE

We hold decision makers accountable, or we work to replace them with liberty-minded individuals.

SPREAD AWARENESS

We spread awareness and an understanding of the limited role of government.

OPPOSE GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

We stand together against government overreach and intimidation tactics.

PROMOTE LIBERTY

We promote teaching the principles of liberty in our homes and community.

ENGAGE ON KEY ISSUES

We engage our communities and elected leaders on key issues impacting our families.

ACTIVATE TO PUBLIC SERVICE

We activate liberty-minded leaders to serve in elected positions.

Advocating at the school board level is our focus but when solutions lie in state statute our legislative program aims to empower you to be effective in that arena.

**UNIFY
EDUCATE
EMPOWER**

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CONTENTS

Chapter Legislative Committee
State Legislative Committee
Legislative FAQ
Legislative Agendas
Example Legislative Agenda
Meeting with Legislators
Calling & Writing Legislators
Effective Calls to Action
Call to Action Flowchart
Questions to ask when evaluating bills
Legislative Do's and Don'ts
Legislative Roles
Legislative Process Worksheet



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If you are a Chapter
Chair, these resources
are also available on the
Chapter Chair Portal.

CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Bad laws are the worst sort of tyranny.
-Edmund Burke

CHAPTER KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Hold regular meetings**
- **Review school board agendas**
- **Attend school board meetings**

Beyond these priorities, a Chapter has the autonomy to set their focus. If the Chapter chooses to get involved in education and parental rights legislation, please use this resource as a guide.

A *Chapter Legislative Committee* is formed at the direction of the Chapter Chair or Executive Board. Without one, the Chair is the liaison to any organized State Legislative Committee until he/she appoints a replacement. Chapter Chairs have many responsibilities; it is recommended that they find someone to serve in their stead on the state committee. This is normally the Chair of the Chapter Legislative Committee.

The purpose(s) of this committee are generally to:

- Facilitate and build relationships with legislators in the Chapter's geographical area
- Maintain a list of contact information for local legislators and legislative contacts
- Propose quality legislation to local legislators for their consideration
- Meet with legislators to discuss legislation
- Support quality, pro-parental rights legislation
- Share information with Chapter membership about legislation and the legislative process
- Assess state legislation that has been proposed
- Put together training for Chapter members on the legislative process in their state
- Represent the Chapter on the State Legislative Committee (Chair)
- Push out the State Legislative Committee's calls to action

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- **Meeting with Legislators**
- **Effective Calls to Action**

While a Chapter can do many things autonomously, it is important to note that official calls to action supporting or opposing filed legislation should **ONLY** be done under the approval of the State Legislative Committee. This includes posting on social media that your Chapter members should contact an elected official so they will support specific legislation.

The Chapter may opt to have just a Legislative Chair who fulfills the function of the committee if not enough volunteers are available. An odd number of committee members is recommended for voting purposes.

While legislative sessions are generally briefly defined periods of time, the legislative committee can serve year-round. The committee can continue to meet with elected officials, work to find a sponsor for legislation, and rally supporters for bills that have already been filed.

Please remember: It is best to coordinate with another Chapter if your actions/meeting may impact them.



STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Wherever Law ends,
Tyranny begins.
-John Locke

A State Legislative Committee is formed when one or more Chapters within a state request it. There is no minimum number of Chapters who must participate, though ALL Chapters within the state should be given a fair opportunity to participate.

MEMBERSHIP

State Legislative Committee voting members include:

- One representative from each participating Chapter. Chapters who do not participate forfeit their vote on the state's legislative agenda.
- The State Coordinator who resides in that State
- Members of the Executive and Advisory Boards of Moms for Liberty National who reside in that state and opt to participate.

The State Legislative Committee Chair may add additional non-voting members to their Committee who they feel can aid them in their mission.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Committee is similar to a Chapter Legislative Committee, but at the state level. The main distinction, and most important duty of the State Legislative Committee, is to set the legislative agenda by voting to support or oppose legislation. These votes should be done with a supermajority of 60% of members. The Committee is also tasked with pushing out relevant calls to action.

LEADERSHIP

The State Coordinator may act as the Legislative Chair for the state efforts or, once formed, the State Legislative Committee may elect a Chair from among its membership to lead. The Committee should elect a three-member Executive Board consisting of the State Legislative Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary. Besides generally executing the duties of the Committee this Executive Board is entrusted with making time sensitive judgement calls as items on the legislative agenda move through the process.

MEETINGS

The Committee meets virtually as needed; the frequency of meetings will vary by state according to the legislative process and timeline.

While legislative sessions are generally briefly defined periods of time, the State Legislative Committee can serve year-round. The committee can continue to meet with elected officials, work to find sponsors for legislation, and rally supporters for bills that have already been filed.

To start in your state, contact your State Coordinator or, if you do not currently have one, the Executive Director of Program Development.

BEFORE PROCEEDING PLEASE READ:

- Legislative agendas
- Example Legislative Agenda
- Legislative Committee FAQ



LEGISLATIVE FAQS

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WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK FOR IN A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OR CHAIR?

It is most important to have someone who is teachable. It is unlikely that you will have expert lobbyists or former legislators to fill all seats on your committee. It is crucial to look for individuals who are humble enough to admit when they don't know something, and curious enough to lead the learning that will be required.

Other good characteristics include:

- Logical
- Able to look at all sides of an issue
- Patient
- Levelheaded

People of any background can be successful on a legislative committee, but the following are particularly well-suited to assist:

- Lawyers or paralegals
- Current or former legislative staff
- Former School Board members
- Former Legislators
- Former Superintendents
- Former BOE members
- Teachers/Administrators
- Involved spouses of legislators
- Those with political connections or experience
- Experience with legislative review

HOW DO WE EVALUATE THE BILLS?

To assist you in evaluating bills we have compiled a list of questions to ask about legislation. You can find the document on the Chapter Chair Portal. A major benefit of your legislative committee is talking over questions and concerns with members of a variety of viewpoints.

HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF THE BILLS?

Bill language is often complicated and confusing. Never be afraid to ask the author or sponsor for clarification, usually their staff will be able to assist. It can also help to watch committee hearings about the bill as the legislators themselves will ask many of the same questions you have. Learning some common legal terminology may aid in understanding. A good resource is: <https://www.uscourts.gov/glossary>.

HOW DO WE READ ALL THE BILLS?

Hundreds of bills are likely to be proposed during legislative session. It is impossible to read through all of them. Searching bills by keyword or sorting them based on the committees they are assigned to can help you whittle down where your attention needs to be focused. When you have a list of relevant bills, divide and conquer. Assign each Committee member bills that interest them, or over which they have special knowledge. Each committee member is then able to report back on their bills.

WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST US?

The websites of many state legislatures have systems that allow you to track bills automatically and receive notifications. There are also a variety of lobbying tools that can assist or enhance this process. Reach out to National about procuring one for your state. Please provide suggested vendors. These tools have a number of premium features that do things like search news about your bills, provide a database of staff contact information, and more.

WHAT IS LEGISLATIVE SESSION?

Session is the timeframe in which the legislature is convened for the purpose of making laws.

2022
The year
of the
PARENT

FLORIDA Legislative Priorities

OUR MISSION: Moms for Liberty is dedicated to fighting for the survival of America by unifying, educating and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government.

PRESERVE PARENTAL RIGHTS

Moms for Liberty Florida supports a parent's right to direct the upbringing, education and medical care of their children. We support legislation that reinforces the fundamental rights of parents within the education system in the state of Florida.

HB 1557 & SB 1834: Parental Rights in Education

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Moms for Liberty Florida asserts that all men are created equal and supports legislation to end discrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin. We support the DOE reviewing professional development to make sure it is free from discrimination.

Community and parent involvement improves education. These key stakeholders should be involved in school board processes, where possible, especially in the selection of instructional materials. We support the prioritization of parents as participants in the selection of materials their children will be taught.

HB 7 & SB 148: Individual Freedom | HB 1467: K-12 Education | SB 1300: District School Boards

EXPAND EDUCATION OPTIONS

Student's unique needs are best met when families have options in education. *Moms for Liberty Florida* supports legislation that increases opportunity, ensures tax dollars follow students, and expands school choice scholarships such as the Hope Scholarship.

HB 1437 & SB 0506: Hope Scholarship Program

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MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

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THE PURPOSE

There is quite possibly no better way to build relationships and win support for an issue than sitting down with those elected to represent you. It may not be an instantaneous process; but open, honest, and kind dialogue builds bridges. It is often easier than you think to get a meeting with your state legislators.

SCHEDULING A MEETING

- Schedule in advance, avoid just dropping in.
- Call their office and ask for the person who handles the legislator's schedule, this is usually a secretary.
- State your name, if you are a constituent, and what you wish to discuss with the legislator.
- Be prepared to provide suggested meeting times.
- It can be easier to get a meeting when they are not in session and are in the district.
- Follow up with an email, either restating the request or confirming what you scheduled. Include the scheduler and the legislator on the email.

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Prepare. It is important to be knowledgeable about all sides of an issue you wish to discuss so you are prepared to answer any questions that may arise.
- Determine your objective. Do you need their vote, information, or for them to sponsor a bill?
- You may opt to send over information in advance of the meeting, but limit it to a single page.
- If you plan on leaving information with the legislator after the meeting, limit it to no more than 5 pages.
- Determine your talking points and prioritize them.
- Decide who will attend with you, normally 2-3 attendees is best. Determine who will say what.

DURING THE MEETING

- Be on time and pack your patience. Legislators may be late and encounter frequent interruptions.
- Make brief introductions then get right to the point.
- Stick to the allotted time, normally between 10-20 minutes.
- Listen carefully and ask questions for understanding.
- Stay on message and communicate clearly.
- Provide accurate information, be honest if you do not know the answer to something you are asked.
- Stories stick- share examples of how the issue you are discussing impacts you or others.
- Thank them for their time.
- Reiterate and write down any commitments you or the legislator makes, i.e. to follow up on something.
- Don't be afraid to boldly ask for what you need.
- Set timelines for commitments.
- Always be kind and exemplify the attributes of a joyful warrior, consider how your actions reflect on our movement.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Each attendee should promptly send a handwritten thank you.
- Follow through with any commitments you made.
- Follow up on their commitments.
- Continue to find ways to build on the relationship.

A NOTE ABOUT STAFF

Legislative staff are crucial to the legislator's success and they can be to yours as well. Always treat them with kindness and respect. Acknowledge them by name and consider including them in thank you notes. At times, you will meet with the staff only.

CALLING & WRITING LEGISLATORS

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CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- Specific
- Gets right to the point
- Polite, but firm
- Suggests solutions
- Easily understood
- Avoids abbreviations and acronyms
- Personalized and shares stories
- Has no more than three key points
- Provides supporting facts
- Timely

LETTERS AND POSTCARDS

- Use the right address for the legislator (are they in district or at the capitol)
- Use their title
- Spell their name correctly
- Sign your name, print name below
- Ensure your address is correct in case of a response
- Personalize letters and postcards for the individual legislator- don't send the same letter to everyone
- Cover only one issue

EMAILS

- Many of the suggestions above apply to emails
- CC their staff on the email
- Use the subject line to communicate the issue you wish to cover; i.e. "Stop Woke Indoctrination"
- Include your contact information so they can respond

PHONE CALLS

- Have a prepared message to leave with a machine or the staff
- Discuss one issue, be brief and stay on message
- Thank them for their time
- Follow up in writing

SOCIAL MEDIA

Response rates to social media comments and messages vary wildly by the legislator. Social media is generally the least effective way to communicate with your legislator about an issue you care about.

KEEP IT PERSONAL

Finding a personal connection with the legislator can help your message cut through the numerous communications they receive. Have you ever voted for them, donated to their campaign, or met them/their family? Pointing out these simple connections can increase the effectiveness of your message.

STORIES STICK

While it is important to have facts to back up your position, presenting the information via a personal story makes the message more effective. Tell them how the issue is impacting families in their district and paint a picture of how they can help.

TIPS

You may need to try multiple communication methods. It is perfectly acceptable to be persistent but avoid inundating or spamming your legislator. It can be important to remember that there may be times you know more than a legislator on a particular issue; communicating effectively can be an invaluable service to them. Make sure you understand as much as possible about your state's legislative process, so your communication is timely and well received.

EFFECTIVE CALLS TO ACTION

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WHAT IS A CALL TO ACTION (CTA)?

A *call to action* aims to get people to take an **action** that will help you accomplish a set **goal**.

GOALS COULD BE THINGS LIKE:

- Getting a bill co-sponsored
- Have a bill scheduled or heard
- Encourage a “yes” vote
- Ensure something is voted down
- Request a bill be vetoed
- Thank a legislator for their action

ACTION OPTIONS

- **Call:** “Call your legislator and ask them to vote yes”
- **Email:** “Email the Committee Chair and ask them to schedule bill #...”
- **Write:** “Send a postcard to the Governor requesting he veto bill #...”

MAKE THEM EFFECTIVE

Calls to action are most effective when they are simple and easy. Instead of giving a variety of ways to help, give your audience THE most effective way. Identify a single target rather than a laundry list of people to contact. Contacting someone who cannot currently affect your issue can harm your cause in the long run.

CTA SHOULD INCLUDE:

- The name and title of the person they are contacting
- If asking people to call, include the BEST phone number for them to try.
- If asking them to write, give the best address.
- If asking for emails, give ALL email addresses that should be included.
- The bill name and number.
- Your goal, ex: vote yes!
- Brief explanation
- Deadline, if it is time sensitive (many are)

FREQUENCY

There is no hard and fast rule for how many calls to action you can or should do. You want to give members ways to engage, but you also do not want to overwhelm them with too many requests. Use your best judgement.

METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

It is important to establish a process for pushing out calls to action. Often, they are shared via social media, email, or text. Determine what channel(s) gives you the best chance at success. Early in the process, the State Legislative Committee should lay out their preferred process for sending out calls to action. They should also consider how best to communicate with any Chapters that are not actively participating.

WHO CAN ISSUE A CALL TO ACTION?

The State Legislative Committee is the only body authorized to push out calls to action on state legislation. Chapters may do calls to action for local bills only.

EXAMPLE

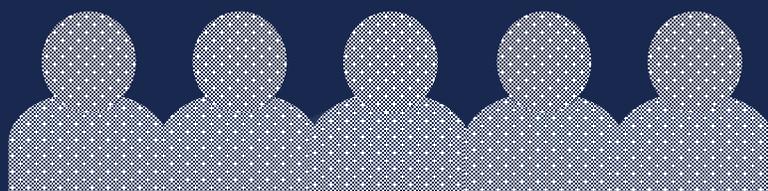
Call Education Committee Chair, Senator John Doe at 555-543-2100 and ask him to hear HB 123!

HB 123 protects children from being exposed to inappropriate material at a young age. Tell John Doe, kindergarteners should be learning to read, not sitting through sex ed. Call today!

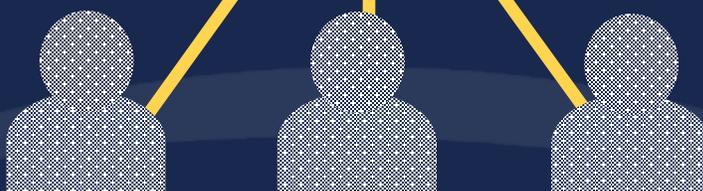
SCHOOL BOARD APPLICATION

The same principles outlined here can be used by Chapters to push out calls to action regarding school board activities.

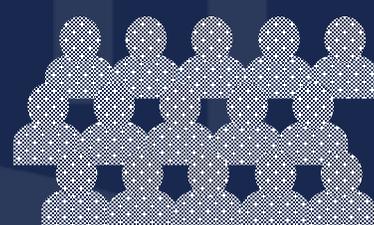
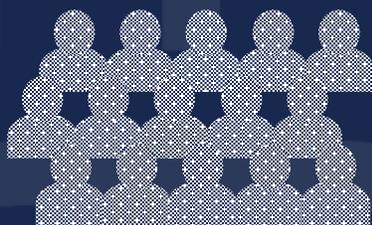
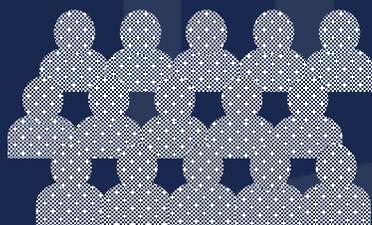
STATE LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION FLOWCHART



The State Legislative Committee prepares the call to action.



Committee members take the call to action back to their Chapters.



Chapters disseminate the information to their membership via email, social media, or other communication channels.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN EVALUATING BILLS

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**While this list is not exhaustive, it can help you begin to assess bills.
Not all questions will apply to all bills.**

- 1) What problem is this bill aiming to solve?
- 2) How does it aim to solve it?
- 3) What is the potential cost?
- 4) How do costs compare to benefits?
- 5) Is there a better, less intrusive, or less expensive way to solve this problem?
- 6) Does the solution create further problems?
- 7) Does the bill align with the principles of the US Constitution?
- 8) Does the state have a right to do what the bill proposes?
- 9) Could the bill lead to the violation of individuals' rights?
- 10) Does the bill expand or restrict the role of government?
- 11) Does it have potentially negative unintended consequences?
- 12) Are there loopholes or ways to manipulate it?
- 13) What are the enforcement mechanisms?
- 14) Does this bill enhance or enshrine parental rights?
- 15) Does the bill negatively impact good teachers?
- 16) Will it improve student performance?
- 17) Is there evidence to support expected positive impacts?
- 18) What is the bill's chance at passing this session?
- 19) Can we have a real impact by supporting or opposing this legislation?
- 20) How will the bill be implemented, and could implementation affect its intended purpose?

LEGISLATIVE DO'S

- Learn as much as you can about issues and the legislative process.
- Share what you learn with others.
- Ensure actions taken as a member of Moms for Liberty align with our mission and values as well as follow Chapter/State Legislative directives.
- Always exemplify the attributes of a *joyful warrior* to assist in building relationships.
- Remember we are strongest together.
- Participate in calls to action.
- Consider how your actions reflect on others and consider looping in Chapters who may be affected by your actions.
- Be patient, you may have to fight a battle more than once to win.
- Expect disagreement and opposition. Be prepared to handle it with grace.
- Exercise discretion as needed.
- Be gracious in sharing credit for successes.

LEGISLATIVE DON'TS

- Threaten, harass, or attempt to intimidate legislators.
- Speak on behalf of the organization when not authorized to do so.
- Get distracted from the mission or messaging.
- Use form letters or emails, emphasize local examples instead.
- Use jargon or acronyms that others may be unfamiliar with.
- Disrespect those who disagree with you.
- Forget to follow through on commitments you make to legislators.
- Mislead or forget to actively listen.
- Forget to focus on the issue instead of the person.
- Ask for things beyond the control of the person you are petitioning.
- Insist on taking all the credit. It is likely many unseen hands played a role.

LEGISLATIVE ROLES

How can I plug in and advocate for parental rights?

MEMBERS

- May personally meet with any legislator, at any time, for any issue.
- May propose legislation to legislators for their consideration.
- If advocating as a member of Moms for Liberty, actions should align with our mission as well as Chapter & State Legislative Committee directives. If they do not, do not reference membership.
- Always exemplify the attributes of a joyful warrior to assist in building relationships.
- Are not authorized to speak on behalf of a Chapter, state efforts, or the National organization.
- Participate in calls to action.
- Please consider how your actions reflect on others and consider looping in Chapters who may be affected by your actions.

CHAPTERS

- May create calls to action on local bills ONLY.
- Create a Chapter Legislative Committee or appoint a Legislative Chair.
- The Legislative Chair represents the Chapter on the State Legislative Committee.
- May hold nonbinding votes or poll membership to gauge support for bills so their Legislative Chair may represent them at the State Legislative Committee.
- May organize members to meet with legislators in the geographic area of the Chapter.
- Disseminate state calls to action to their membership.
- The Chapter's Legislative Chair works with the State Legislative Chair when handling media inquiries about legislative activities.

STATE

- The State Legislative Committee creates calls to actions.
- Holds binding votes to support or oppose legislation.
- Sets the Legislative Agenda for the state.
- May plan a rally or legislative day at the capitol for members within the state.
- Organizes Chapters to meet with legislators throughout the state.
- The Chair of the Legislative Committee is the authorized spokesperson for legislative activities. They work in conjunction with the national organization, as necessary.



LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WORKSHEET



Use this worksheet to assist you in researching the legislative process in your state. This tool can be used individually, as a family, within your Chapter/State Legislative Committee or as part of a training for members.

- 1) Is your state legislature bicameral? Hint: Only one state isn't.
- 2) What are the two branches of your legislature called?
- 3) How many State Representatives does your state have?
- 4) How many State Senators?
- 5) Who are your State Representative and Senator?
- 6) What are the terms for your State Representatives and Senators?
- 7) Who is in leadership in both branches of the legislature?
- 8) How often does the legislature meet? When does legislative session start?
- 9) How many bills can your State Representatives and Senators file? Is there a limit?
- 10) What are the types of bills in your state?
- 11) How many times must a bill be read/heard before it can pass?
- 12) What are the main committees and how does the committee process work?
- 13) What are the staff positions assigned to each State Representative and Senator?
- 14) How is a bill amended in your state?
- 15) What sort of tracking system does your state have for bills?
- 16) How does the veto process work in your state?
- 17) When is the deadline for filing bills?





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