



Advocating for an organ transplant discrimination bill at the state level is a noble endeavor aimed at ensuring equitable access to life-saving organ transplantation for all individuals, regardless of their disability status. This one-pager provides an overview of what to expect during the advocacy process and outlines key steps, challenges, and potential outcomes.

- 1. Research and Preparation:** Before initiating the advocacy campaign, conduct thorough research on existing laws, policies, and data related to organ transplant discrimination in your state. Familiarize yourself with relevant medical, ethical, and legal aspects of organ transplantation to build a strong foundation for your advocacy efforts. A great place to start your research is by contacting the NDSS policy team. They will be able to answer your questions and provide relevant data to back it up.
- 2. Coalition Building:** Forming alliances with like-minded organizations, patient support groups, medical professionals, and legal experts is crucial for a successful advocacy campaign. A strong coalition will amplify your voice and provide expertise and resources to bolster your cause. This can be accomplished by looking for relevant organizations in your area on the internet, or by reaching out to the NDSS policy team. NDSS' policy team works with many different state affiliate groups and can help you find the best one to speak with.
- 3. Identifying Champions:** Seek out lawmakers who are sympathetic to the cause or have shown interest in issues related to healthcare and/or disability. These champions can become invaluable allies in promoting and sponsoring the bill during the legislative process.
- 4. Crafting the Bill:** Collaborate with members of the NDSS policy team to draft a comprehensive and well-crafted bill that addresses the various forms of organ transplant discrimination effectively. Ensure the language is clear, concise, and aligned with the state's legislative process. NDSS can provide bill text to make the process easier and ensure all sections of the bill are included.
- 5. Building Public Support:** Engage in public outreach and awareness campaigns to garner support from the public. Utilize social media, community events, and media outlets to raise awareness about the importance of the bill and its potential impact on saving lives.
- 6. Facing Opposition:** Be prepared to encounter opposition from various groups, such as insurance companies, medical organizations, or individuals with differing views. Understand their concerns and develop counterarguments to address their objections respectfully.
- 7. Navigating the Legislative Process:** The legislative process can be complex and time consuming. Be prepared for multiple committee hearings, public testimonies, and potential amendments to the bill. Stay proactive in maintaining support and addressing concerns raised by lawmakers.
- 8. Media and Public Relations:** Leverage media opportunities to generate positive coverage of the bill and maintain public interest. Highlight personal stories of individuals affected by organ transplant discrimination to humanize the issue and create empathy.
- 9. Monitoring Progress:** Keep track of the bill's progress at each stage of the legislative process. Understand that the timeline can be unpredictable and adjustments may be necessary to accommodate changing circumstances.
- 10. Celebrate Milestones and Stay Resilient:** Acknowledge and celebrate each milestone achieved during the advocacy journey. However, also be prepared for setbacks and delays. Persistence, resilience, and adaptability are key qualities needed to sustain the campaign's momentum.

Advocating for an organ transplant discrimination bill at the state level is a challenging yet rewarding process. By conducting thorough research, building strong alliances, and engaging in public outreach, your efforts can lead to meaningful change and contribute to a fairer and more equitable healthcare system that saves lives. Remember, every step you take brings us closer to a future where organ transplantation is free of discrimination, providing hope and a chance for a better life for all.