



## Advocacy work vs. Being an advocate

### Being an Advocate:

-Being an advocate is when someone attempts to influence legislators to support or oppose a particular issue or piece of legislation. This is allowed for non-profits within certain parameters.

- Advocates lobby for their cause by directly communicating with a legislator, legislative staff, or any other government employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation.

-An advocate will also use grassroots lobbying as an attempt to influence specific legislation by encouraging the public to contact legislators about that legislation. They often will send emails with scripts that allows constituents to contact their legislators about that legislation.

### How to become an advocate:

-Sign up for Lobby Day with NAMI Washington

<http://www.namiwa.org/index.php/programs/advocacy/nami-day-2016>

-Receive NAMI alerts about specific legislation to contact legislators about

<http://www.cqrcengage.com/nami/app/register?1&m=4721>

### Advocacy work:

-Advocacy is educating and creating awareness among legislators and the general public of issues facing the community and the importance of aligning public policy to address the need. Advocacy **does not endorse or oppose specific legislation**, but rather informs the community at large how public policy decisions impact service provision.