

ADVOCACY AT THE FOOD BANK OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



FOOD BANK
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
TOGETHER, WE END HUNGER



THE MISSION OF THE FOOD BANK OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS IS TO FEED OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND LEAD THE COMMUNITY TO END HUNGER

The Advocacy Team focuses on passing laws and policies that will enable people to live healthier, more successful lives and create a world where no one goes hungry.

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INTRODUCTIONS

- Do you follow news and current events?
- If so, what are your most trusted sources?
- What is one story that you've followed closely in the past few months?

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

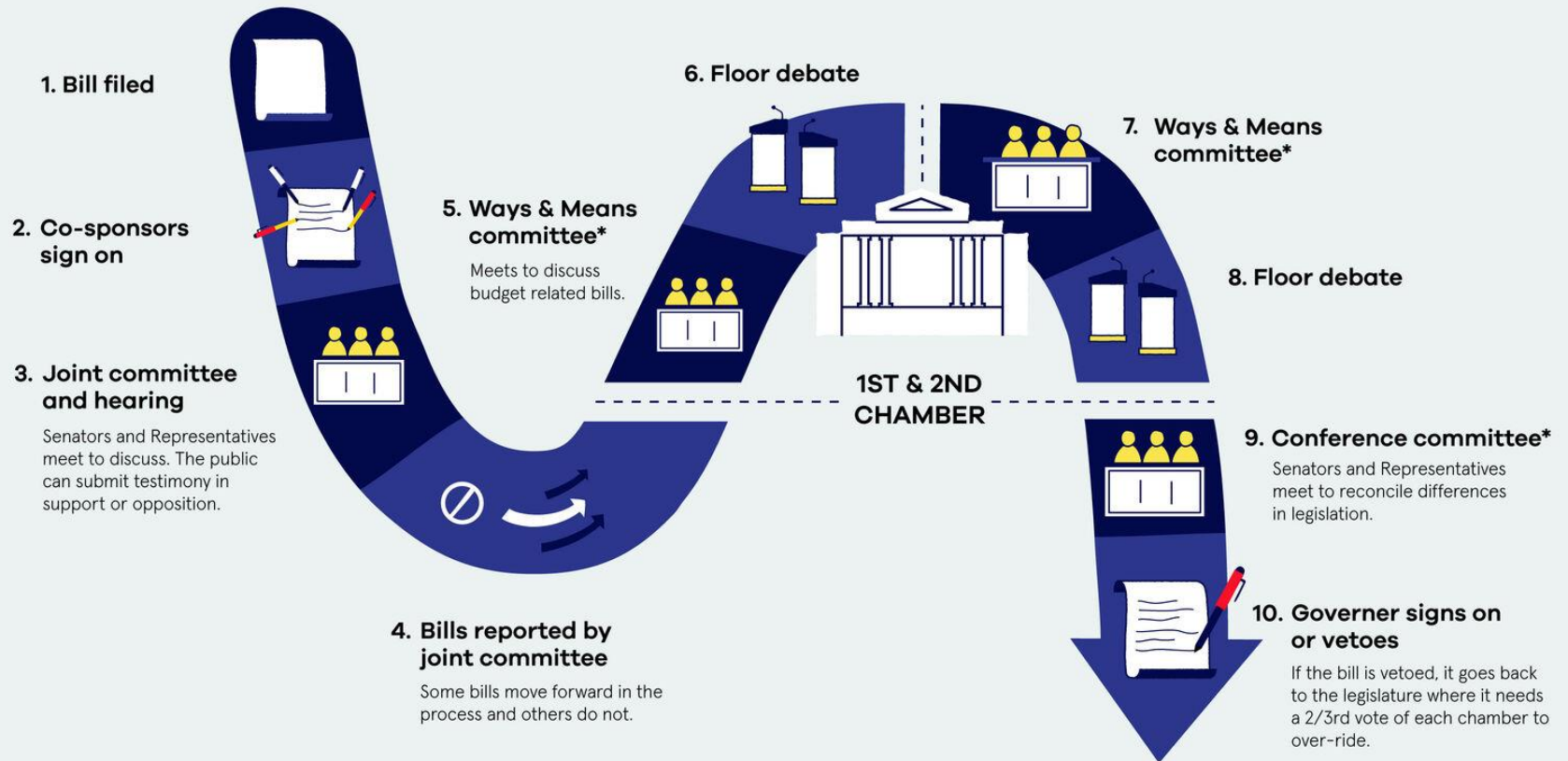
Advocacy: support or recommendation of a cause or policy

- Can include educating legislators and/or the public about a particular issue

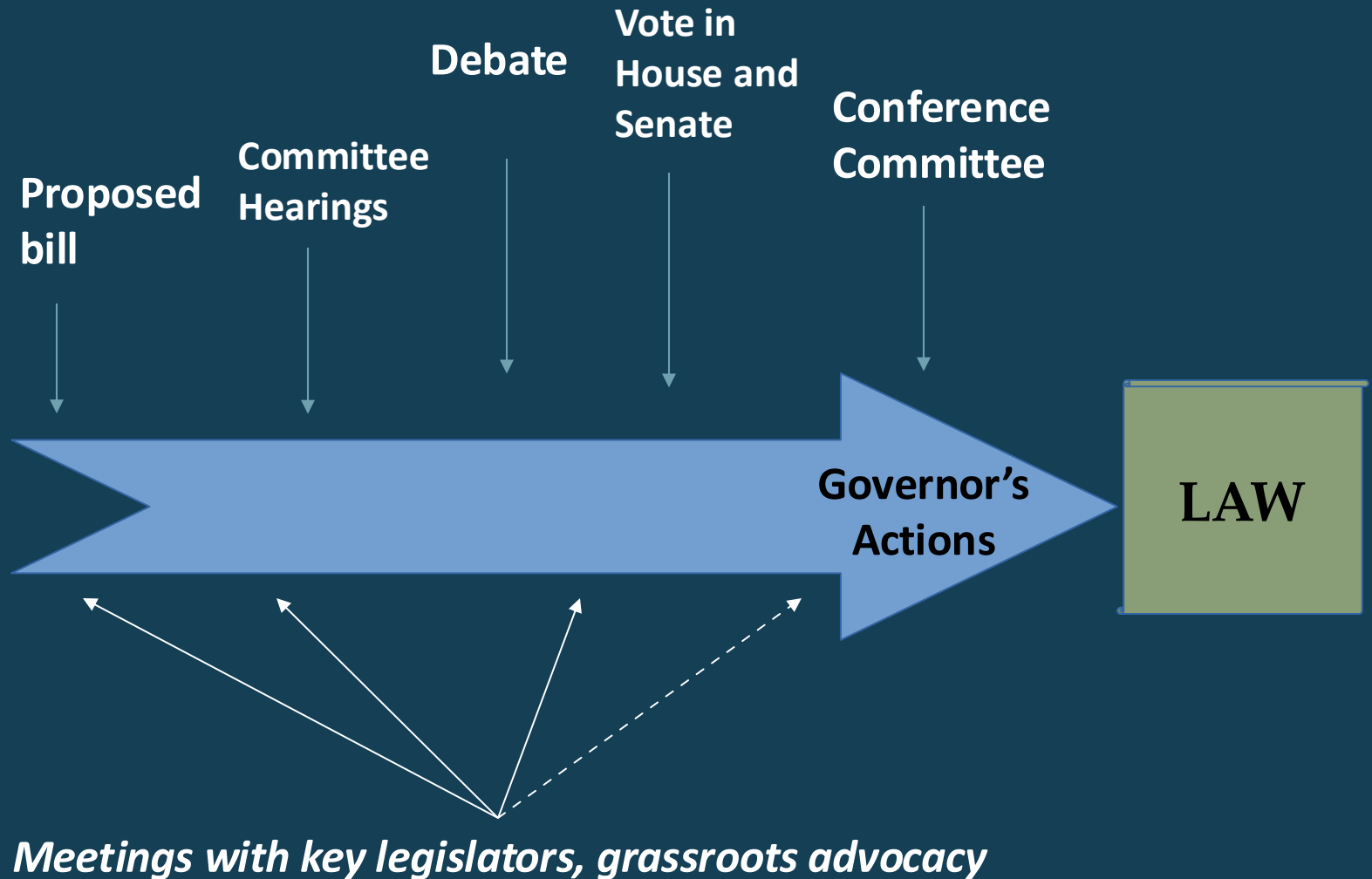
Direct Lobbying: communicating directly with policymakers about a specific piece of legislation

Grassroots Lobbying: involving the public in advocacy efforts through a “call to action,” ex. asking your network to contact their legislators

How a bill becomes a law in Massachusetts



ADVOCACY AND THE MA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEGISLATORS

- Your voice has most influence with *your own* legislator(s)
- Identify yourself as a constituent when you call
- Invite them to your workplace
- Introduce them to clients
- Not sure who your legislators are?
 - Go to www.wheredoivotema.com OR
 - Go to www.malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator

BE PREPARED

- Know the numbers
 - Bill number
 - Budget line item & amount
 - Amendment numbers & sponsors
- What do you want your legislator to DO?
 - Have an actionable “ask”
 - “I’d like to ask for your support for (bill number).”
 - “Please support \$(amount) to fund (program) in this year’s state budget. The line item is ____.”

THE MESSAGE

- **Why is this important?**
 - How does this affect the legislator's constituents?
 - Do you have district-specific data?
 - Do you have any stories you can tell?
 - Have you seen this issue in your work?
 - What would the *impact* of this legislation be (positive or negative)?
 - Health outcomes?
 - Cost/savings?

POLICY PRIORITIES: FEDERAL

Tier 1—We actively work on these priorities.

Protect and strengthen federal nutrition programs:

- SNAP
- TEFAP
- Farm Bill Reauthorization
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Tier 2—We work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

Protect and strengthen programs that are anti-poverty and anti-racist:

- Budget, tax proposals, and welfare reform
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Encourage participation in the democratic process
- Oppose changes to Public Charge and other rules that put vulnerable populations at risk

POLICY PRIORITIES: STATE

Tier 1—We play a leadership role in advocating for these priorities.

- Hunger-Free Campus Initiative
- MEFAP
- HIP
- Transportation
- Bridge to Prosperity Cliff Effect Pilot

Tier 2—We work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- An Act fostering agricultural resilience in MA (FARM bill), SD.2144 (Comerford) and HD.3621 (Blais)
- An Act encouraging the donation of food to persons in need. SD.834 (Comerford) and HD.403 (Kane)
- An act ensuring tuition equity at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. SD.858 (Comerford)
- Expand food literacy in MA schools. SD.1235 (Lewis) and HD.2100 (Vargas and Domb)
- Proposal for a legislative amendment to the constitution relative to agricultural and horticultural lands. SD.1673 (Comerford) and HD.2701 (Kane)
- Support state-level work to implement relevant pillars of the White House National Strategy on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition
 - PILLAR 1: Improve Food Access and Affordability
 - PILLAR 2: Integrate Nutrition and Health
 - PILLAR 3: Empower all consumers to better prevent, manage, and treat diet-related diseases

POLICY PRIORITIES: STATE (CONTINUED)

- Tier 3—We support efforts of other organizations by adding our name to sign-on letters, etc.
 - Affordable housing and utilities
 - Access to affordable services/education, such as childcare, higher education, behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, and services for seniors and disabled people.
 - Universal access to affordable health insurance
 - Farm to School initiatives
 - Support other organizations' policy priorities when overlapping and appropriate (for example: MA Food System Collaborative, CISA, MA Public Health Association, Lift Our Kids Coalition)



Western Mass Transportation Advocacy Network Transportation Forum

Western Mass Is on the Move!

Learn about innovative
transportation-related
work being done in the
four counties of
Western Mass.

*You're
Invited!*

Friday, April 11

9:30am to 3pm

La Quinta Inn

100 Congress St., Springfield, MA

Register Now!



forms.gle/iwtKk8zK9o6quNvR7

Contact lauras@foodbankwma.org with any questions.

JOIN US APRIL 11 IN
SPRINGFIELD

Register for the WMTAN
Forum [here](#).

HOW DO WE ADVOCATE?

LOBBY DAYS



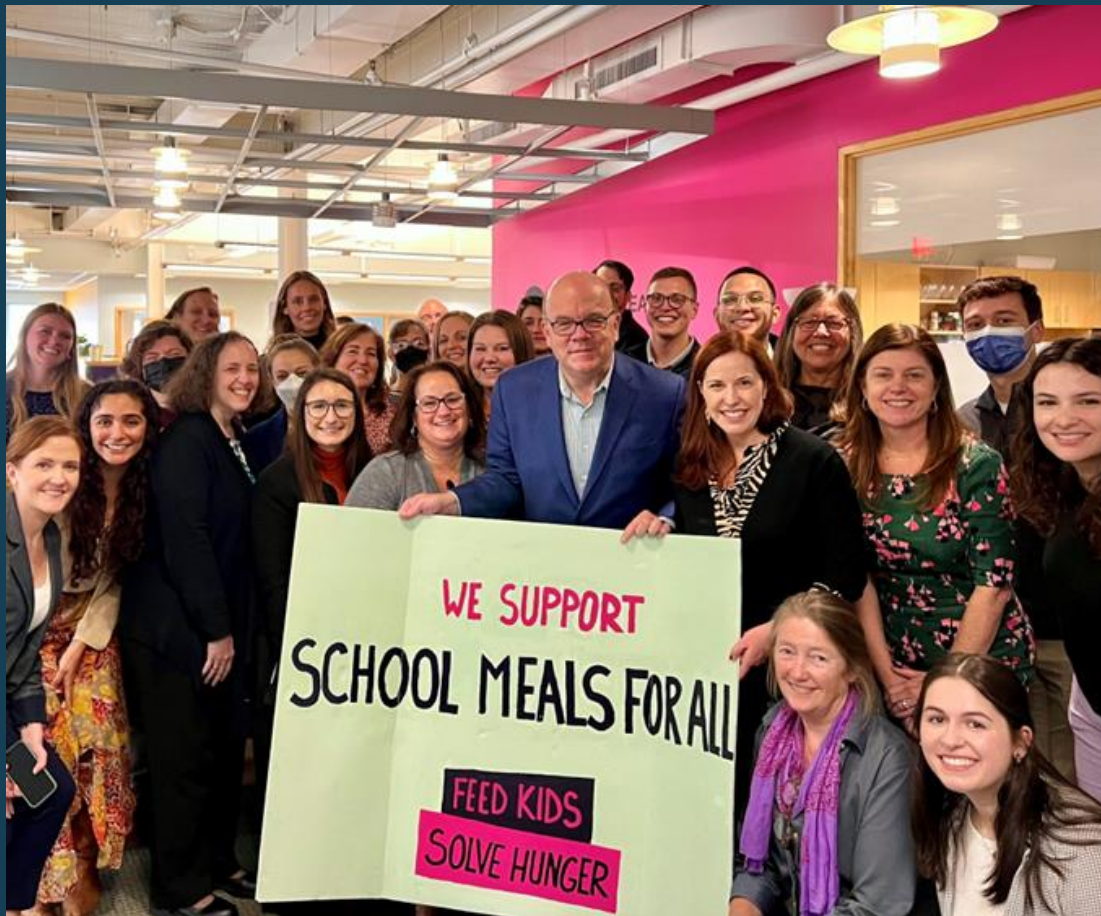


TESTIMONY AT THE STATE HOUSE

FLY-INS



COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



FOOD BANK

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MASSACHUSETTS

TOGETHER,
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