

# ADVOCACY

wholespire



## WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy includes activities and publications to influence public policy, laws and budgets by using facts, relationships, media, and messaging to educate government officials and the public. Advocacy can include many activities that a person or organization undertakes including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning, and publishing research.

## WHY DO WE ADVOCATE?

- 1 We are the experts in our field. Decision-makers across the state see information on many issue areas and policies come across their desks. They cannot possibly know every consequence, intended or unintended, of legislation that they see.
- 2 Elected officials will rely on us the next time an issue or healthy policy is introduced or discussed.
- 3 Being a part of the process promotes positive change around the state.

## CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN ADVOCACY?

Yes. Everyone can advocate. Whether it is asking your own legislator for support or only distributing facts to elected officials, every individual has the right to advocate. South Carolina only regulates lobbying activities at the state level. There are currently no regulations at the local levels of government.



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