



ADVOCACY AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS

- Advocacy and Health Policy efforts at the local or state level are member-driven. The initiative to undertake advocacy efforts within your state must come from OHNs living within your state.
- Legislation and regulatory efforts specific to workers and the environment in a particular state require action by all AAOHN members within that state.
- Members of the AAOHN Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee provide expertise, advice and assistance to members and chapters through this Take Action Toolkit and regular conference calls with chapter governmental affairs representatives.
- Each AAOHN Chapter should appoint a Government Affairs Chair to monitor legislative and regulatory information within your state and to send any information about AAOHN advocacy efforts at the national level to your members.
- Chapter Government Affairs Chairs should work closely with other officers within a chapter and Government Affairs Chairs of other AAOHN chapters within your state to impact legislation and regulation and to raise the visibility of occupational and environmental health nursing among state legislators and regulators.
- If your chapter doesn't have a Government Affairs committee, please contact your Chapter President to say you would like to be the Government Affairs Chair for your Chapter!
- In several states, AAOHN members – on their own and in collaboration with other occupational health and safety professionals – have achieved positive results. Anything is possible, but the first step is to get involved.
- By working together, OHNs across your state can identify advocacy issues of highest priority and work together to address occupational and environmental health and safety concerns within your state.
- Often states will have a state nurses association, which may have a legislative or advocacy committee. These state based committees work to support and provide testimony for state legislation. By working with these state based committees, you can provide your expertise in occupational and environmental health to their efforts.

Find Your State Officials <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/state-legislatures.html>: You can link to your own state legislative home page and find your state officials from this national map provided through the Library of Congress.

State Government Agencies <http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/State-and-Territories.shtml>: This is not a government website and may not always have up-to-date links for each state government, but can be a quick way to access each state's government.

You can also find legislative and regulatory information pertinent to your own state through most of the official state web site addresses listed below. Generally, there is also a place for you to enter your zip code and find your own state official. States may label their legislative body other than the state house or senate but the function is usually clear.

Alabama	http://www.alabama.gov/portal/index.jsp
Alaska	http://www.alaska.gov/
Arizona	http://az.gov/
Arkansas	http://www.state.ar.us/
California	http://www.ca.gov/
Colorado	http://www.colorado.gov/
Connecticut	http://www.ct.gov/
Delaware	http://www.delaware.gov/
D.C.	http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/
Florida	http://www.myflorida.com/
Georgia	http://georgia.gov/
Hawaii	https://portal.ehawaii.gov/
Idaho	http://www.state.id.us/
Illinois	http://www.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Indiana	http://www.state.in.us/
Iowa	http://www.iowa.gov/
Kansas	http://www.kansas.gov/
Kentucky	http://kentucky.gov/Pages/home.aspx
Louisiana	http://louisiana.gov/
Maine	http://www.maine.gov/portal/index.html
Maryland	http://www.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Massachusetts	http://www.mass.gov/portal/
Michigan	http://michigan.gov/
Minnesota	http://mn.gov/portal/
Mississippi	http://www.ms.gov/home/
Missouri	http://www.mo.gov/
Montana	http://mt.gov/
Nebraska	http://www.state.ne.us/
Nevada	http://nv.gov/
New Hampshire	http://www.nh.gov/
New Jersey	http://www.state.nj.us/
New Mexico	http://www.newmexico.gov/

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New York	http://www.ny.gov/
North Carolina	http://www.state.nc.us/
North Dakota	http://www.nd.gov/
Ohio	http://ohio.gov/government/
Oklahoma	http://www.state.ok.us/
Oregon	http://www.state.or.us/
Pennsylvania	http://www.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Rhode Island	http://sos.ri.gov/
South Carolina	http://www.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx
South Dakota	http://sd.gov/
Tennessee	http://www.state.tn.us/
Texas	http://www.texas.gov/en/Pages/default.aspx
Utah	http://www.utah.gov/index.html
Vermont	http://vermont.gov/portal/
Virginia	http://www.state.va.us/
Washington	http://access.wa.gov/
West Virginia	http://www.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Wisconsin	http://www.state.wi.us/state/
Wyoming	http://www.state.wy.us/

Local Governmental Agencies <http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm>: This link is not a government web site, but there are links to each state, click on a state to access its governmental officials as well as links to county governments within that state. Click on the county to access local government for each town within each county for a state.

National Organizations that Advocate for the States within the U.S. Congress

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) advocates for state legislatures by empowering state lawmakers and legislative staff in every state to keep legislative powers of the states and federal government separate and defend the states' authority in the U.S. Congress. <http://www.ncsl.org/>

National Governor's Association is the collective voice of the nation's governors in federal relations. Access their website to read NGA policy positions and legislative testimonies: <http://www.nga.org/cms/home.html>

The Pew Charitable Trust, a global research and public policy organization, is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to serving the public. Access their STATELINE daily news service for State and Consumer Initiatives to find public opinion research as well as environmental, health, state and consumer policy initiatives. <http://www.pewstates.org/>

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