

# Policy is as Easy as Pie If You Know the Recipe

2015 Disability Policy Seminar

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# Overview

- How does a bill become a law?
- Legislative and regulatory processes
- Key policymakers
- Political Climate
- Current and Key Issues



# By a show of hands...



- Who is in DC for the first time?
- Who is here at the Disability Policy Seminar for the first time?
- How many of you have been to Capitol Hill?
- How many of you consider yourself an advocate?
- How many of you belong to a self-advocacy organization?



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# By a show of hands...

- Who has seen the cherry blossoms this week?
- Who traveled the farthest to get here?
- Who knows how a bill becomes a law?



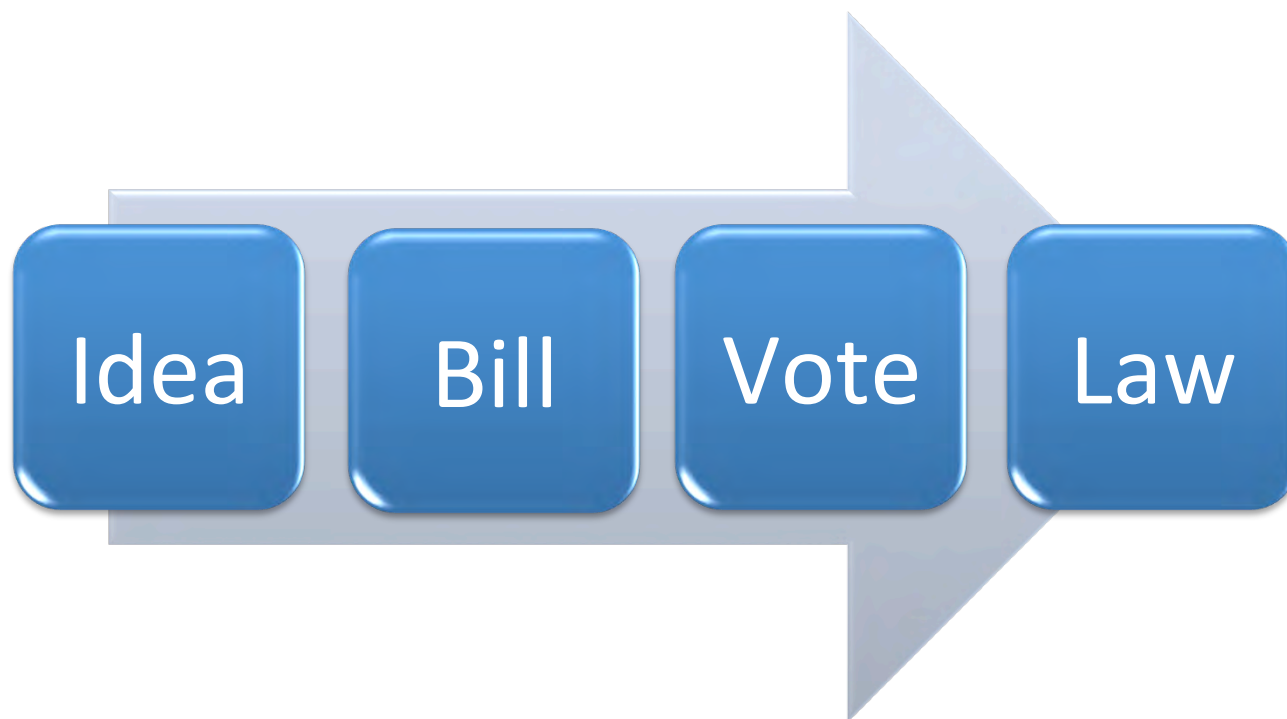
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# How does a bill become a law?

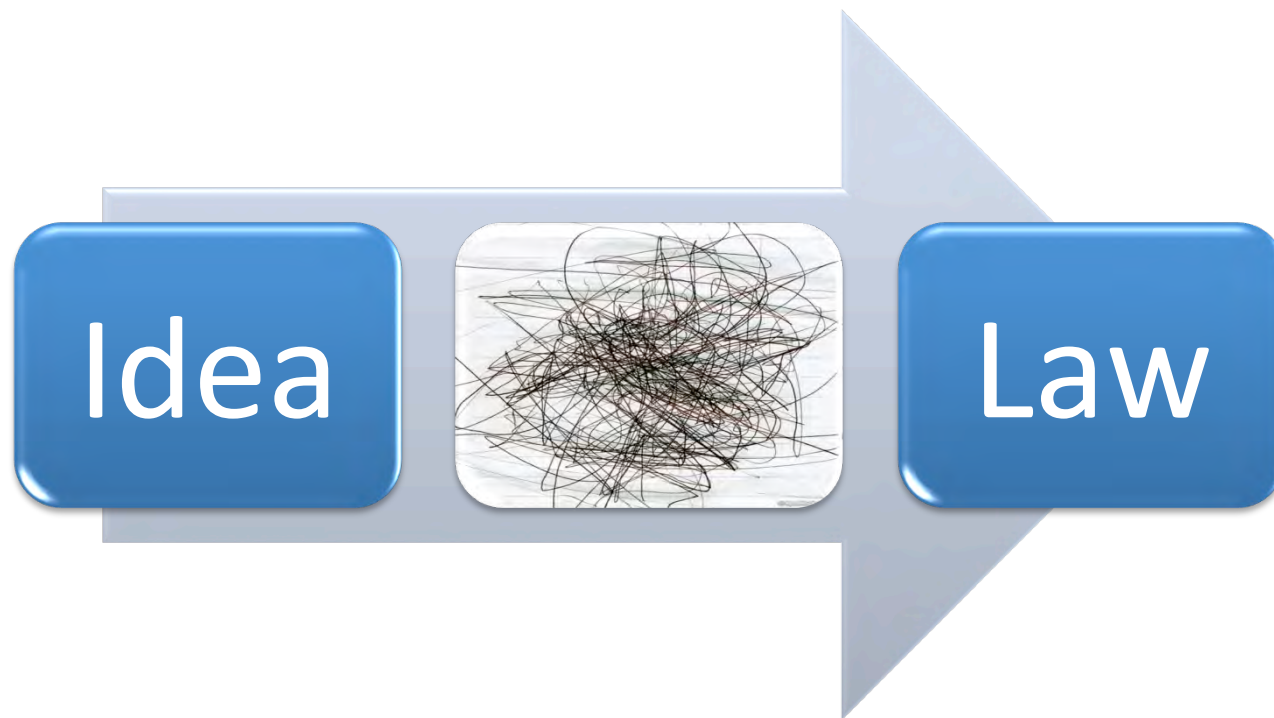


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# What we are taught...



# What it really looks like...



7 ingredients

# POLICY RECIPE



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# Ingredient 1

- Know the issue/identify the problem



# Ingredient 2

- Talk with your group and agree on an issue or problem to solve; agree on at least one possible solution to the problem



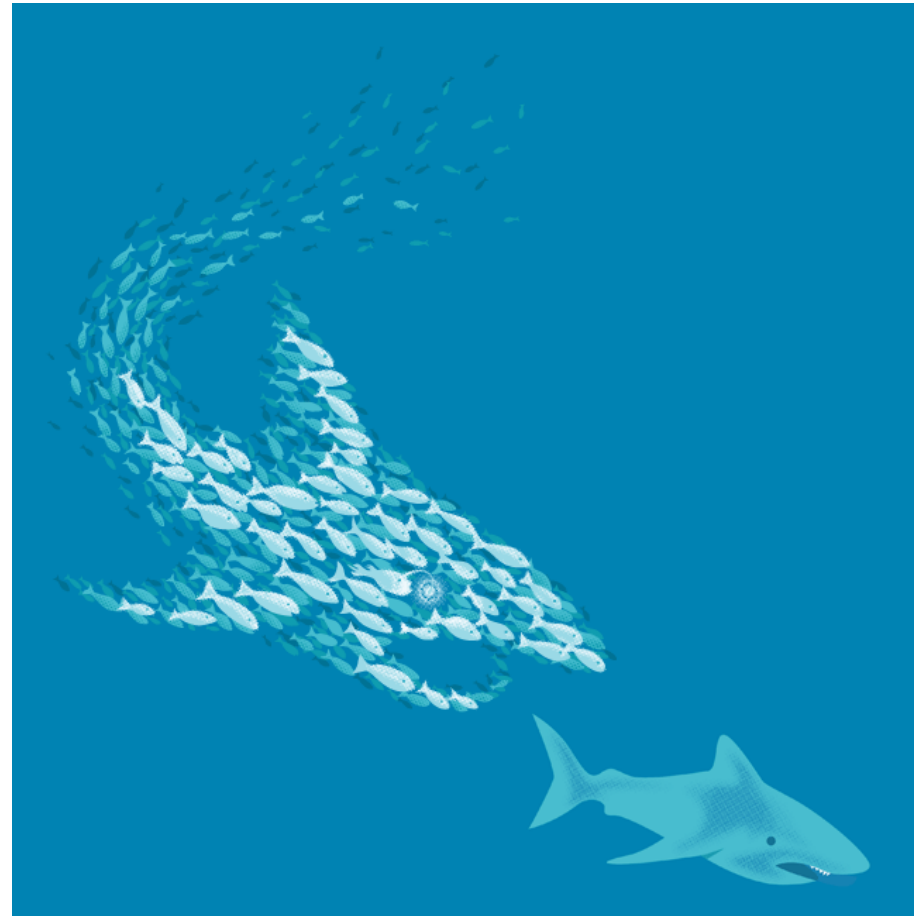
# Ingredient 3

- Discuss the problem/issue and possible solutions with other advocacy groups that you trust



# Ingredient 4

- Work in coalitions



# Ingredient 5



- Be willing to compromise; sometimes you have to agree to disagree



# Ingredient 6

- Talk with legislators



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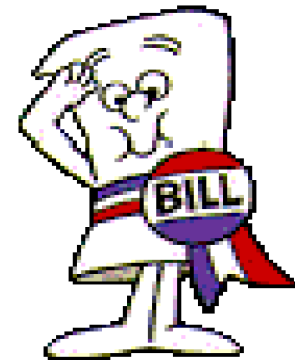
# Ingredient 7

- Know the process



# How a bill becomes law

- Introduced by Member of Congress
- Sent to Committee/Subcommittee
- Hearings and markups held
- House or Senate debates
- Conference Committee meets
- House and Senate approve compromise
- President signs into law





# Pull a chair up to the table

“If you don’t have a seat at the table, you’re probably on the menu.”

Elizabeth Warren, 9/23/14



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# What is advocacy?

- Influencing public policy
- Not just new laws but also:
  - Seeking enough money to make programs run
  - Making sure laws are applied, translated, and enforced correctly



# KEY POLICYMAKERS



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How many branches of government are there?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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What are the three branches of government?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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# 3 Branches of Government



Executive Branch  
President &  
Administration



Legislative Branch  
Congress  
House & Senate



Judicial Branch  
Courts



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# President & Administration

- Comes up with ideas for new laws
- Writes the rules that make the laws work (regulations)
- Enforces laws
- Signs or vetoes bills
- Has access to the media





Who is the Secretary of Health and  
Human Services?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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Who is the Secretary of Education?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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# Executive Cabinet



Secretary of Health  
& Human Services  
Sylvia Mathews  
Burwell



Secretary of  
Education  
Arne Duncan



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How many Members are in the House of Representatives?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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How many Members does each state get  
in the House or Representatives?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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How long is a Representative's term?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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# House of Representatives



- 435 Members
- Two-year terms
- More rules
- More focused on regional issues
- [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)



# Key House Committees

- Appropriations
  - Harold Rogers, R-KY
  - Nita Lowey, D-NY
  - Labor-Health-Education Subcommittee
    - Tom Cole, R-OK
    - Rosa DeLauro, D-NY
- Budget
  - Tom Price, R-GA
  - Chris Van Hollen, D-MD
- Education & Workforce
  - John Kline, R-MN
  - Bobby Scott, D-VA
- Energy & Commerce
  - Fred Upton, R-MI
  - Frank Pallone, D-NJ
- Ways and Means
  - Paul Ryan, R-WI
  - Sander Levin, D-MI



How many Senators does each state get?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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How long is a Senator's term?

**TRIVIA QUESTION!!!**



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# Senate



- 100 Members
- Six-year terms
- Fewer rules, more individual power
- Focused on national issues
- Filibuster – use of parliamentary procedures to delay or kill bills
- [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)



# Key Senate Committees

- Appropriations
  - Thad Cochran, R-MS
  - Barbara Mikulski, D-MD
  - Labor-Health-Education Subcommittee
    - Jerry Moran, R-KS
    - Dick Durbin, D-IL
- Budget
  - Mike Enzi, R-WY
  - Bernie Sanders, I-VT
- Finance
  - Orrin Hatch, R-UT
  - Ron Wyden, D-OR
- Health, Education, Labor & Pension
  - Lamar Alexander, R-TN
  - Patty Murray, D-WA
- Foreign Relations
  - Bob Corker, R-TN
  - Robert Menendez, D-NJ



# How can advocates advocate when they are not in Washington, DC?

- Support local and national advocacy organizations
  - Join a local self advocacy organization
  - Friend organizations on Facebook or follow them on Twitter
  - Use social media to get the message out
- Respond to action alerts
  - Write letters and emails
  - Make phone calls



# How can advocates advocate when they are not in Washington, DC?

- Join a board or legislative advisory body
- Participate in rallies
- Talk to your peers
- Host a letter writing party
- Attend a hearing
- Write a letter to the editor in your local paper



# How can advocates advocate when they are not in Washington, DC?

- Get to know your Congressional representatives
  - [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)
  - [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
- Visit your state and local legislators
- Share information with them
  - Tell them your story
  - Tell them why an issue is important to you & how it affects your daily life
  - Be a resource
  - Be your own expert



# How can allies support advocates?

- Allies need to listen, make time, and not be in a hurry.
- Allies need to know how to talk with advocates about the movement.
- Allies need to know how to support advocates, don't put opinions in their heads before they get their thoughts out; who is "the self" in self-advocate?



# Trivia Time!!

1. What is the address of the White House?
2. What's AUCD's weekly policy update called?
3. What is SABE's newsletter called?
4. What are the two houses of Congress?
5. Who is the majority leader of the Senate?





# Trivia Time!!

6. How old do you have to be to run for president?
7. Who is the Speaker of the House?
8. How often is the State of the Union Address?
9. Which Congress are we in?
10. What are the three Senate office buildings?
11. Who is the majority leader of the House?



# Trivia Time!!

- 12. Who is the majority leader of the Senate?
- 13. What are the three House office buildings?
- 14. Who is the president of the Senate?
- 15. Who is the minority leader of the House?
- 16. What is The Arc's weekly policy update called?
- 17. How many Senators are there?



# Resources

- [SABE](#)
- [AUCD](#)
  - [Tuesdays with Liz: Policy for All](#)
- [The Arc](#)
- [Self Advocacy Rules and Tips](#)
- [Allies in Advocacy](#)
- [Disability Policy Seminar](#)
- [www.Congress.gov](#)



# Thank you!

- Questions?



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