

Legislative Advocacy

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts advocates for legislation to prevent brain injuries, including seat belt and helmet laws, and for support services for brain injury survivors such as housing and transportation. Our legislative successes would not be possible without the hard work of individuals across the state.

Basic Rules of Advocacy

- Legislators' votes are affected when constituents pay attention and voice their support on an issue.
- An advocate must get the right information to the right person at the right time.
- Numbers count! Get family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others involved.

There are four ways to advocate

- Face to face
- Phone call
- Letter or fax
- E-mail



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How to be an Effective Advocate

The following steps will help you effectively communicate with your legislators:

- Know your representatives, senators, and their key aides. Be in contact with them on a regular basis, not just when you need them.
- Research the facts and make specific reference to bill numbers or line items in the budget. Be concise! Ask for support.
- Clearly mention your recommendations on a bill or budget item. Give reasons for your recommendations.
- Include your personal story if it illustrates the need for a specific outcome on a bill. Be non-threatening in your presentation.
- Follow-up is the most important part. It shows you are paying attention to legislative activity. Thank your legislator for a favorable vote.

To find out more about current legislative issues, visit www.biama.org/whatdoes/advocacy.html



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