

Why Advocate with NEDA in Your State to Combat Eating Disorders?

****YOU REALLY can make a difference in your state.**

****Lobbying is easy** when you have the tools. We can provide you with the tools and teach you how to use them.

****Because your state government might not know about the injustices occurring within their borders. It is up to all of us to educate policymakers about the impact of eating disorders.**

****Because you have the expertise and experience** about eating disorders that your elected officials lack.

****Working with NEDA also means that you have the guidance and support of a national association.** Legislators want to do the most good for the most number of people. If you speak with the support of an organization, they are **much more likely to hear your case** than if you approach them solo.

****Because NEDA's goal is to work at the state level to enact legislation to improve access to care and to develop early intervention, education, and prevention programs. State legislatures are much more accessible than federal** because of the size and location. There are fewer legislators, they are geographically closer, their staff is smaller (which means more access to the legislator themselves); plus, they meet for a limited amount of time each year (or in few cases, every other year), thus they must act fast to accomplish goals, greatly enhancing the likelihood of having your agenda addressed.

Lobbying is...

- ◆ Telling your elected representative what you want, then motivating them to help you achieve it. Most ideas for legislation come not from the government, but from citizens like you. Legislators respond to problems that seriously need solutions, they usually do not initiate them.
- ◆ Teaching your representative about what is important to you and giving them the facts to urge others to support you and your cause.
- ◆ Easy. Let us show you how **you** can change the future of eating disorders in your state!