

10 REASONS

ADVOCACY

IS MORE AWESOME THAN YOU THOUGHT



1 ADVOCACY IS MISSION

We often assume advocacy is for activists or paid lobbyists, but God specifically charges His people with the privilege and responsibility to speak out for justice in a world that often ignores or oppresses the poor. Bearing witness to God's kingdom doesn't necessarily mean you have to become a missionary in a foreign country—you can be a voice for justice right from your living room!



2 YOU'RE THE BOSS!

If you are a U.S. citizen, you have two senators and one congressional representative and they work for YOU! They were elected to be your voice in Congress. They represent your state and district, and their job is to listen to you!



3 YOU CAN BE A LOBBYIST, TOO

Lobbying isn't just for D.C. insiders. As a constituent and voter, you have more power than you might think. If you care about an issue, your voice can make a difference without you ever stepping foot inside the Beltway.



4 POLITICAL LEADERS NEED YOU

More than 10,000 bills are introduced in Congress every year, making it impossible for your representative to keep track of every issue out there. Our advocacy assures that the important stuff isn't lost in the shuffle.



5 YOU HAVE OPTIONS

Advocacy can happen in lots of different ways, most of which are forms of communication we use every day: email, snail mail, Twitter, Facebook, engaging your local newspapers, and face-to-face meetings with your leaders. Get creative! The possibilities are endless!



6 EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY IS BASED ON RELATIONSHIPS

While all methods of contacting your member of Congress are valuable, meeting with them in person is the most effective and can usually happen right in your city. Build a long-term relationship with them (which is totally appropriate and possible, by the way), and your influence will increase exponentially.



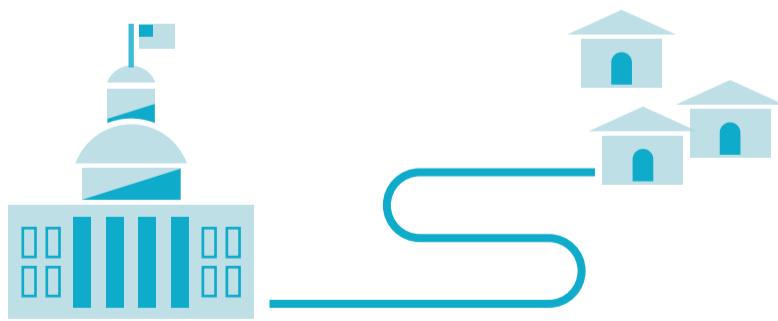
7 ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE HUMANS TOO—WE PROMISE

Just like the rest of us, they need encouragement, prayer, and support to help them make the best decisions. They're under a lot of pressure to meet various demands ... who better to come alongside them with prayer and encouragement than the people of God? (Remember how great it was the last time someone encouraged or prayed for you? Politicians need that too!)



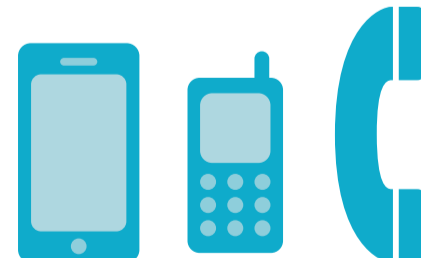
8 A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Currently, U.S. foreign assistance comprises less than 1% of the total federal budget. However, this 1% helps millions of people. More than 3 million lives are saved each year through USAID immunization programs, and Feed the Future also reached more than 12 million children with nutrition interventions! Advocates are the ones who convince Congress that this funding is critical and should not be cut.



9 ADVOCACY MULTIPLIES YOUR MONEY

Speaking up about the power and value of U.S. foreign aid helps ensure support gets to the communities where World Vision works, multiplying the impact of your donations and making transformation sustainable once World Vision is no longer working in the community.



10 IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

As few as 10 calls in one day to a member of Congress on a particular issue is enough to make them stop and take notice. Their office must keep track and take notes about every call they get. You probably have that many people on your friends and family wireless plan. Enlist them all and start making an impact!



BONUS: PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Becoming an effective advocate takes time and lots of practice. Don't worry, we can help! Join the thousands of others in the World Vision community who are speaking up for the world's most vulnerable children. You'll find lots of great resources to help get you started at worldvision.org/advocacy.