Key Points Made

Lowering the Barrier of Time

- Join and be active in a coalition or group that is focused on the same or similar issues.
- Determine your role and how you want to be engaged in the coalition.
- You already are the subject matter expert, be willing to share that information and propose best practices.
- Engage with partners to gain diverse viewpoints and spread out the work.
- You are the connection between the facts and figures and the clients' voices, ensure that the clients are represented and a part of the process.
- Use coalition's targeted messages as talking points.
- Follow policy briefs for highlights of proposed legislation.

Lowering the Barrier of Access to Decision Makers

- Know what area (geographical) your legislator serves.
- Know the background and interests of your legislator.
- Keep your points in bullet point language, be clear in articulating your message.
- Start with approaching the committee assigned to the bill. Once it has passed committee and is up for review in the Senate/House, then reach out to the appropriate legislator.
- The legislator will put as much time and energy into reviewing your message as you have put into developing it.
- Phone calls, emails, letters, in-person meetings are all effective methods of contacting your legislator.
- Be very polite and respectful.
- Legislators can’t know everything about every bill or issue. They need your expertise to inform them.