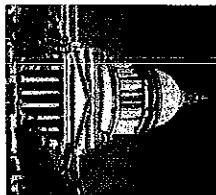


## ADVOCACY DAYS



Advocacy Day is a great way to learn about the legislative process in person.

Each Advocacy Day begins with an hour briefing at 10:00 in the morning. The briefing includes:

- ⚙ **Special speakers**
- ⚙ **Inside information on current bills and budget issues**
- ⚙ **Tips for a successful day**

Participants are offered several ways to advocate during the afternoon, such as:

- ⚙ **Meeting with legislators or their aides\***
- ⚙ **Attending hearings or floor sessions**
- ⚙ **Writing and delivering messages to legislators**



\*Appointments with legislators must be made well in advance. Contact The Arc of Washington State if you need help making your appointments.

## 2008 DATES

<b>January 16</b> Pre-Reception Evening Briefing	<b>January 23</b> Session Overview & Hot Topics
<b>January 30</b> Children's Crisis Intervention	<b>February 6</b> Disability History Curriculum
<b>February 13</b> Independent Living Day Rally	<b>February 20</b> Birth to Three & Family Services
<b>February 27</b> Autism	<b>March 5</b> Budget

If you need a group guide or someone to help plan your day, please let us know in advance so that we can help you make the most of your experience.

Limited reimbursements are available for travel on a one-time, first come, first-served basis.

To learn more (and there is more), please call:  
1-888-754-8798, ext. 105.

**You are Invited to Attend the  
2008 Statewide Disability  
Legislative Reception**

Join hundreds of advocates and legislators from all over Washington State to discuss issues impacting the disability community.

**When:** January 16, 2008  
5:30-7:30 pm

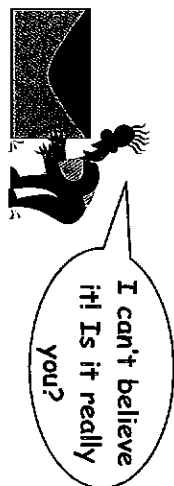
**Where:** Legislative Building  
3rd Floor  
Capitol Campus, Olympia

**Special Pre-Reception Briefing**

A summary of current issues and talking points on developmental disability issues will be provided from 3:30-5:00 in the Columbia Room on the 1st floor of the Legislative Building. Come early and learn how to make key points to your legislators.

Hosted By:  
The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council and  
Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment

**THEY'VE GOT REAL MAIL TOO**



Although email is the best way to communicate during session -- when things are happening really fast -- a written letter or note can leave a lasting impression.

When the Legislature is not in session, letter writing is a lovely way to impart your wisdom and knowledge about issues in greater depth.

During session, thank you cards remind legislators that you appreciate what they do.

**Governor Chris Gregoire**

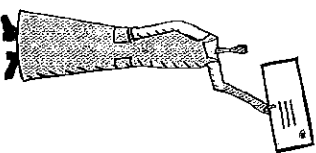
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

**House**

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98501

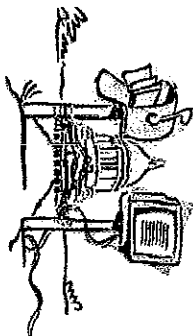
**Senate**

P.O. Box 404 \*  
Olympia, WA 98504

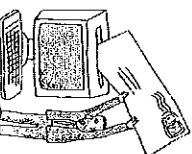


\***Note:** For your senator, insert your 2-digit district number after 404. Example for the 1<sup>st</sup> district: 40401

## THEY'VE GOT EMAIL



At long last, everyone uses email (you won't believe how long it took for some to relent). Often, legislators are on their laptops during hearings and on the House or Senate floor. The right message at the right time can work wonders!



When sending an email, be sure to follow the same guidelines for leaving any message. Be brief, be polite and be accurate.

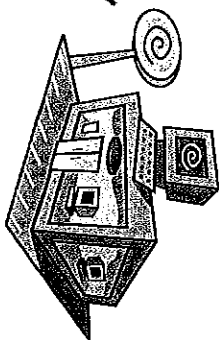
The formula for all legislators' email addresses is...

- ☐ Last name followed by a dot (.)
- ☐ First name followed by @
- ☐ leg.wa.gov

Example: [duck.donald@leg.wa.gov](mailto:duck.donald@leg.wa.gov)

You can also find contact information for your legislators at: [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

## Online Action Center (Open 24 hours)



Opportunities to advocate from your home computer are just one click away when you visit The Arc of Washington State **Online Action Center**. The Action Center provides:

**Olympia Insider.** Weekly postings on current legislative activities, as well as advocacy action steps on specific issues related to developmental disabilities.

**Bills of Interest.** Regularly updated information on legislation of interest to developmental disability advocates -- includes brief summaries, bill status, and links to legislative reports.

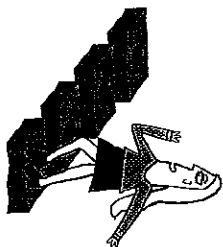
**Action alerts.** Email alerts on specific issues that require immediate action. With one click, you can send your message to the appropriate legislator(s).

To sign up for the *Olympia Insider* and Action Alerts, visit [www.arcwa.org](http://www.arcwa.org).




### BUDGET STEPS

Even though it makes its public debut during legislative session, the state budget process takes place all year long...every year.




The budget runs on a two-year cycle, called a **biennium**. The big biennial budget bonanza happens every odd-numbered year. A **supplemental** budget repairs the biennial budget every year, but it's the main event during even-numbered years. *Got that?*

**START**  **Agency elves** (at DSHS, etc) toil all spring and summer to create budget options for their boss--the Governor.



**The Governor** signs the budget bill, vetoes parts she doesn't like, and the fun begins all over again...

**The Governor** works on the agencies' numbers in the fall and releases her budget in December.

 **The House and Senate** each pull it apart, then rearrange it to suit their priorities. After the dust settles, they "negotiate" an agreement that pleases the most number of people.



### TELEPHONE TIPS

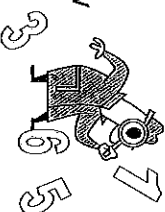


Holy hotline, Batman - that's fifteen calls on one issue! I need to learn more about this "independent living" thing.

Your phone call is so important that just ten or fifteen calls in support or opposition to a bill (or budget item) is considered a landslide of public opinion.

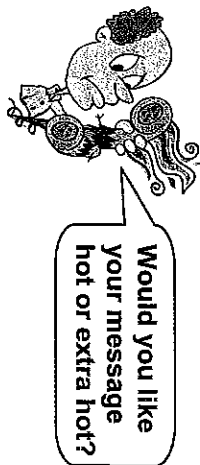
When you make a **Hotline** call, be sure to follow these simple guidelines:

- State your **NAME** and **ADDRESS**. If you know the names of your legislators, or district, that's even better.
- Identify the **BILL NUMBER** (or budget item) you're calling about. With thousands of bills floating around the legislative universe, legislators need to know the bill number.
- State **YOUR POSITION** and keep it simple. Do you support, oppose or want changes to the bill?



This is not the time to tell your life story. It's a numbers game. The more calls, the merrier (for you and your bill).

### LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE



The Legislative Hotline (1-800-562-6000) is a fast, free and easy way for you to voice your opinions on bills during the legislative session.

When you call the Hotline, an operator will answer the phone and take your message. She (or he) will ask where you live to make sure that your message goes to the right legislators.

Your message will be sent to all three of your legislators and the Governor.



The Hotline is a message service for you to express your opinions only (not make appointments for a meeting, dinner and a movie).

**Weekday hours** are 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.  
**Saturday hours** are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

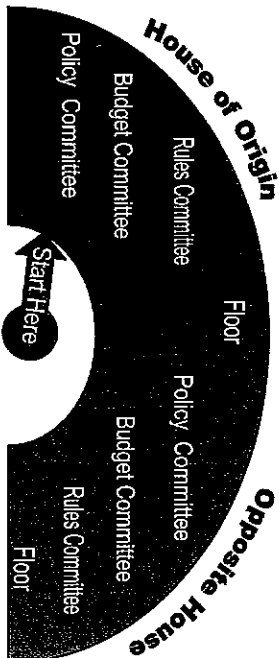
If the Hotline is busy when you call, **KEEP TRYING!** You will get through, but it may take several calls.

### BILL PROCESS

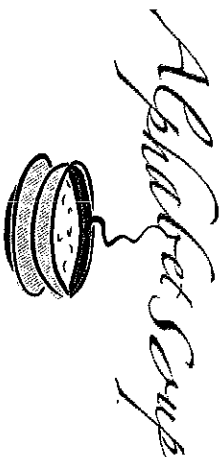


Bills are "processed" through the grinder of public opinion and compromise (you know what they say about sausage--making).

The bill process follows a strict diet of cut-off dates (except for a privileged few that can fudge a little). The dates have to do with deadlines for making it out of committees.



About 2,000 – 3,000 bills are introduced each year, but only 10% ever make it into law. It's a good thing, too. It's hard to come up with thousands of good ideas in just a few months.



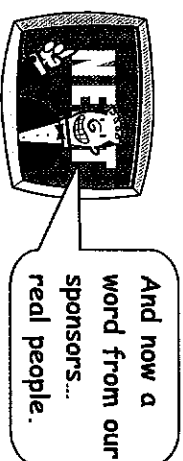
## Legislative Gumbo Jumbo

**Dropped (draw'pd):** This is when a bill is first introduced. If it's a bill you like, this is a good thing. If it's a bill you don't like, it's not. Why is it **dropped** and not gently carried through the first door? Because it actually gets dropped into a box (called a **hopper**) in the Code Reviser's Office.

**Amendment (ah'mend•munt):** Not everyone likes a bill the way it arrives, so legislators change it to make more people happy. These changes are called **amendments**. They are not the same as making amends. (No matter how much you change, some people will always hold a grudge.)

**Hearing (here' - ing):** As part of the bill process, committees "hear" public testimony from citizens, agencies and lobbyists who explain what's good or bad about a bill. A hearing does not ensure that listening takes place. That's your job.

## THE ART OF A CLEAR MESSAGE



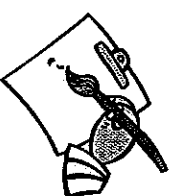
Your time with legislators, staff or aides is short, and your message should be too. It's a good idea to plan one minute, five minute and ten minute versions.

Assume that the person you're talking to doesn't know anything about you or the issue (a good bet).

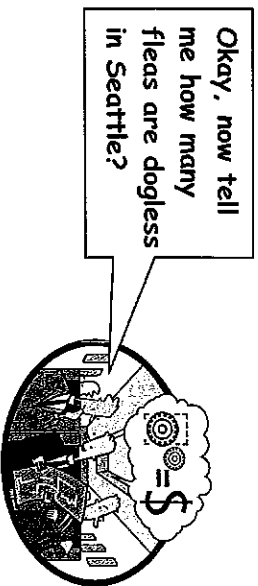
Whether it's in person or in writing, you must get your point across with a clear message. This means being brief and specific.

Your message should cover three main points.

1. The issue (for example, a specific bill or a service in need of funding).
2. How the issue affects your life or the lives of others.
3. The action or result you want.



## WOULDN'T YOU KNOW...



The truth is, no one knows everything.

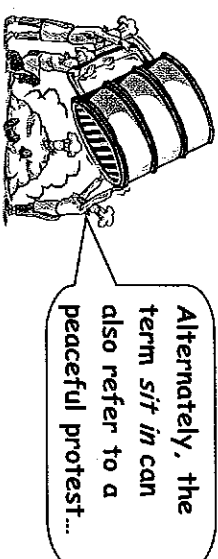
Not even the smartest, brightest people can spit out answers to complex questions (or even some simple ones – like *where's the best place to park?*).

Legislators or their aides may ask you for information that you don't have -- such as data.

*Never ever guess.*

You'll earn points and make friends if you admit that you don't know. Just be sure to contact an advocacy organization or agency that can track down the information and follow up with the person who asked for it.

Stick to what you know best – your life. You are the expert when it comes to telling your story and how it relates to a specific issue.



**Floor (flör):** Also known as “the third floor,” (because it's on the third floor of the legislative building), this is where legislators vote on bills as one big family in each chamber (House and Senate).

**Door (dör):** Also known as “the doors” (as in “working the doors”), a door is the entryway to the **floor**. Just outside the doors, lobbyists and advocates (that would be you) send notes to legislators on the floor, asking them to come out and talk. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. Don't take it personally.

**Pull (arrgghh):** This is a tricky term. It can refer to pulling a legislator off the floor (see above) or it can refer to an action in Rules Committee in which a member is allowed to pull a bill to the floor for a vote (which doesn't mean it actually lives to see that day, but it does keep hope alive).

**Sine die (sign-ee-dye):** The end. The same group of legislators will never meet again (elections, you know).

## PARENT & FAMILY ADVOCACY



<b>Benton/Franklin Counties Parent Coalition</b> Sharon Adolphsen, Coordinator	509.967.3974
<b>Chelan/Douglas Parent Coalition</b> Tamara Cardwell, Coordinator	509.888.2377
<b>Clark County Parent Coalition</b> Darla Helt, Coordinator	360.823.5163
<b>Grant/Adams/Lincoln</b> Debbie Chapman	509.659.4173
<b>Grays Harbor County Family/Parent Coalition</b> Cheri Goers, Coordinator	360.537.7000
<b>Jefferson County Parent Coalition</b> Jenell DeMatteo	360.379.8934
<b>King County Parent Coalition</b> Margaret-Lee Thompson, Coordinator	425.883.6721
<b>Kitsap County Parent Coalition</b> Nancy Martin, Coordinator	360.769.2220
<b>Lewis County Parent Coalition</b> Paula Zamudio, Coordinator	360.880.0672
<b>Pierce County Parent Coalition</b>	253.564.0707
<b>Snohomish County Parent Coalition</b> Jennifer Nelson, Coordinator	425.258.2459
<b>Spokane County Parent Coalition</b> Lance Morehouse, Coordinator	509.328.6326
<b>Whatcom County Parent Coalition</b> Beverly Porter, Coordinator	360.715.0170

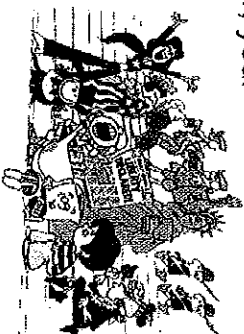


I don't have time to  
talk about your toes  
Elvira... I've got to make  
sure life on earth is  
improved in 105 days.

Changing the world can feel overwhelming at times. That's why it's important to connect with others who feel the same way – about issues, that is.

Parent coalitions, self-advocacy groups, Arc chapters and other organizations can help you speak up on issues that are important to you.

Whether or not you want to change the world from your computer, your community or the halls of our state Capitol, you've got friends to help you along the way.



Flip, skip or read straight through *Hot Tips* for all you need to know about that thing called "getting involved."

And... **WELCOME.**

You've just joined one of the most respected and effective grassroots advocacy efforts in our state: developmental disabilities.



## IT'S IN YOUR HANDS



The rest is up to you. It's time to make a commitment to take part in at least one of the following activities:

**Sign up for the Online Action Center.** Receive current information and instant ways to send a message to your legislators and the Governor:

[www.arcwa.org](http://www.arcwa.org) (scroll to the bottom of the homepage for a link to the site).

**Attend a local or statewide legislative forum.** Hear how issues are discussed, see your legislators in person and introduce yourself. Or, if you're shy, simply attend and see what all the fuss is about.

**Participate in at least one Advocacy Day** during the 2008 session. Call 1-888-754-8798, ext. 105 to sign up.

**Call the Legislative Hotline (1-800-586-6000).** It's free, fast and makes a huge difference when numbers count.



## WARNING

The information contained in this booklet may become addictive.

With proper treatment, it may also become contagious.

It may even lead to some or all of the side effects outlined below.

We hope that it does all these things and more.

### **Common side effects:**

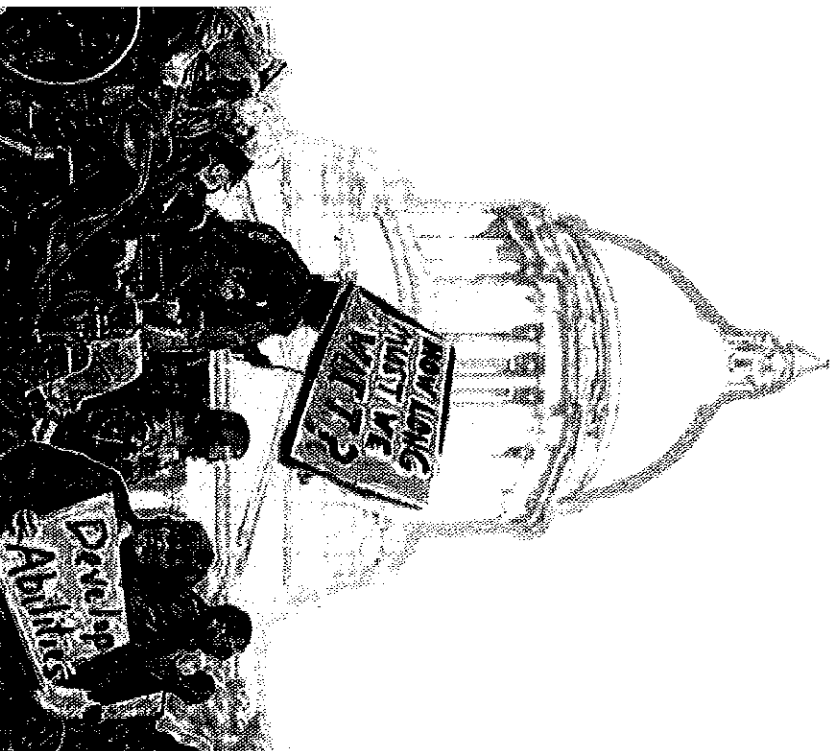
- ▼ Limited ability to complain
- ▼ Loss of sleeplessness
- ▼ Sudden urge to advocate
- ▼ Increased thirst for knowledge
- ▼ Unexplained itch for bill updates
- ▼ Bouts of optimism
- ▼ Elevated enthusiasm

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your legislators and let them know what you think!



# HOT TIPS

FOR  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES



**The Arc of Washington State**  
*Advocates for the Rights of Citizens  
with Developmental Disabilities*  
2638 State Street NE ♦ Olympia, WA 98506  
888.754.8798 ♦ [www.arcwa.org](http://www.arcwa.org)