

Policy Advocacy for Providers

**Nurturing Developing Minds
Greenville, SC
February 23-24, 2023**

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INSTITUTE for CHILD SUCCESS



EC PRISM

Early Childhood Precision, Innovation,
and Shared Measurement

Connection Activity

- Can you picture in your mind an individual child you know who you care about deeply?
- Have you read a book or article that spoke about child wellbeing?
- Have you made a phone call, referral, text, or gone out of your way to help someone access resources?
- Have you spoken with a friend or colleague on behalf of a child or family?



You ARE an advocate!



Advocacy When You Work for a Non-Profit

- First – A disclaimer
- Second – especially for things relating to your day job – be aware of what might be relationally problematic for you and your employer.
 - There are some legal employment protections for political activity and advocacy, which are beyond the scope of this conversation. If you're thinking of advocating for something that your employer opposes, it may be wise to consult an attorney about parameters.
- Last – there are certain hard legal barriers for non-profits to be aware of.

“What is allowable?”: Core Guidance

- 501(c)3 Non-profits cannot intervene in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

- As long as we carefully follow that principle:

We can educate the public, officials, candidates, and campaigns about our issues, and recommended policies to address those issues; and

We can encourage the public to engage in the electoral process (by helping individuals register to vote, and reminding them to vote).

What is the goal of policy advocacy?

The goal is to bring lived experience and/or professional expertise to policymakers so that they can make positive changes for young children and their families.



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Strategies to Transfer Advocacy Skills to the Public Policy Sphere

Be Polite and Persistent

State the Problem

Share Stories and Numbers

Make a Specific Ask

Trust the Process

- This is incremental work with baby steps and small wins along the way.
- It requires relationship building.
- Coalitions are key.
- Democracy is alive!



Get Involved Moving Forward

Know who represents you in government and reach out to them!

<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

Senator Tim Scott (202)224-6121

Senator Lindsey Graham (202)224-5972

Join the SC Early Childhood Common

Age





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Questions?

**Please Reach Out to Me
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