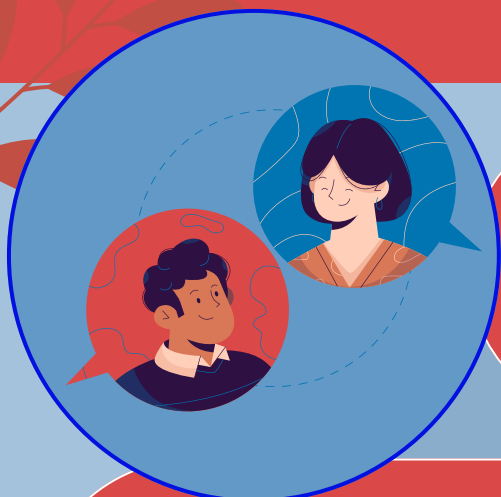


# AUDIOLOGY ADVOCACY



## WHAT IS A LOBBYIST?

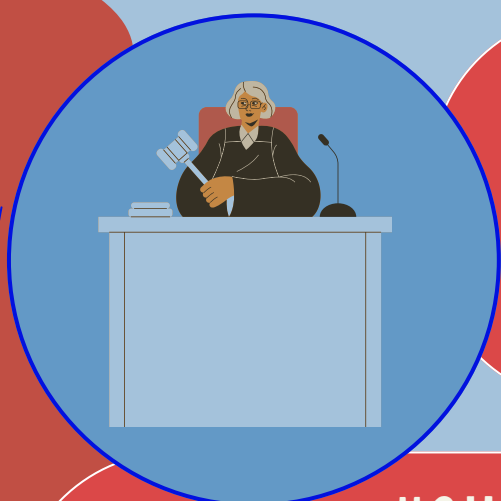
A trained professional who advocates on behalf of an organization to lawmakers and government officials to influence legislation.

## HOW IS A NEW LAW PASSED?

1. A bill is introduced and sponsored by a member of congress.
2. A committee learns from professionals and makes amendments to the bill.
3. The House of Representatives debate on the bill.
4. The bill is voted on, and amended if it does not pass.
5. The bill is sent to the Senate to repeat steps 3 & 4.
6. Differences between the House and the Senate are amended for final approval.
7. The President decides to pass or veto the bill.
8. If it is passed, it becomes a law. If it is vetoed, steps 2-6 repeat.



*Keep going*



## LAWS V. REGULATIONS

**Law:** Passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

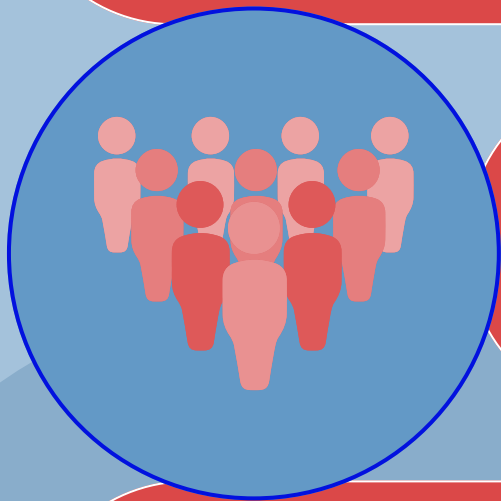
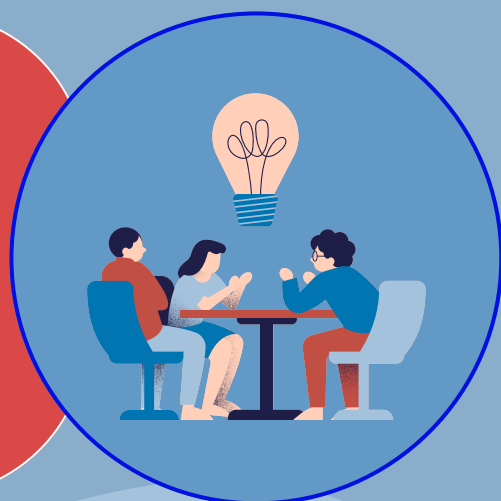
Ex. The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities .

**Regulation:** Rules specifying how to implement and enforce a law.

Ex. Regulations under ADA states that assistive listening devices must be available in public venues.

## HOW ARE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED?

Professional organizations monitor current topics in government, and hire lobbyists to advocate for audiologists. They represent audiologists at the federal or state level, helping to protect and improve audiologist's scope of practice. Professional organizations also have educational programs and committees designated to help audiologists become advocates.

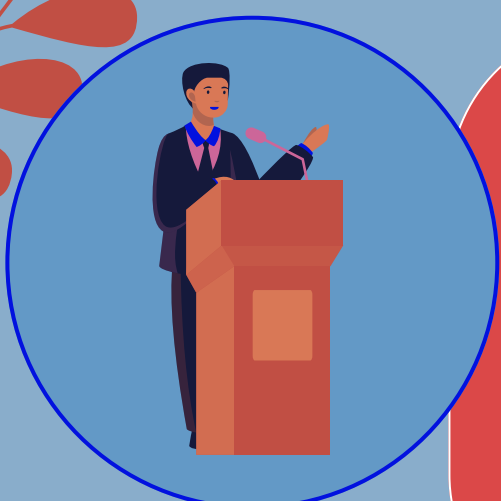
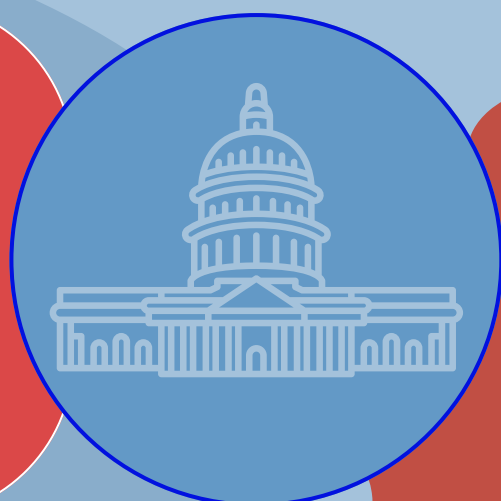


## WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Healthcare policy directly affects an audiologists' scope of practice, reimbursement, education, and licensing. Advocacy is vital to providing evidence-based practice, and your concern has a significant influence on politicians. .

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL?

- Join advocacy groups in your professional organizations and express your legislative concerns.
- Engage with members of congress.
- Remain informed about current legislation that impacts audiologists.
- Donate to political action committees (PACs).



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED AT THE STATE LEVEL?

- Join your states audiology organization, or develop an organization for your state.
- Report state-related legislative efforts to professional organizations.
- Connect with your policy makers by requesting a meeting or writing a letter.
- Understand how your state's regulations impact your abilities as an audiologist.
- Act as a professional witness during legislative testimony.