No Money. No Staff. No Problem:

Ideas for Group Advocacy Efforts
Introductions

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Ian Alfaro, Sibling Advocate
Ian’s Advocacy Journey

- Rio Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association
- World Down Syndrome Day at the Texas Capitol
- Sibling Advocacy
Tips for Advocacy

Educate yourself on issues.

Identify your story.

Remember that legislators and policymakers WANT to hear from self advocates and their families.

You don’t have to know all the answers.
Deborah’s Advocacy Journey

Rio Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association
Buddy Walk on Washington
Texas Partners in Policymaking
Texas Partners in Policymaking - RGV
Texas Down syndrome Advocacy Coalition
Down Syndrome Texas
Disability Advocates Coalition - RGV
Growing A Movement

Educate yourself on issues.
Identify your story.
Find your people!

Raise awareness & education.
Develop partnerships and coalitions.
Starting a State Advocacy Day

Connect with advocates from around the state.
- Use DSAs and statewide disability organizations to promote.

Find a legislative partner.
- Proclamation?
- Build a relationship with a staffer.

Train advocates in advance about legislative priorities. (Zoom!)

Logistics: Reserve a room. Find a sponsor for lunch?
2023 WDSD at the Capitol
2019 WDSD at the Capitol
State Advocacy Day Challenges

Scheduling conflicts with other organizations, issues and votes.

Building consensus

- Disagreements about which bills or topics are most important.

Shaping the story.

- Press releases and follow up.
Suggestions for Small Groups

Look for FREE opportunities to raise awareness.
Access statewide resources.
Partner with other organizations and advocates.
What coalitions already exist? Examples: Community Health, Birth to 5
Invest a little money. Be strategic!
Join NDAC, sign up for Action Alerts, & take advantage of free training opportunities through NDSC

Legislative Listening Session  Disability Issues Forum  Parent Training