Advocacy Engagement at Trinity Health

Trinity Health is one of the largest Catholic health systems in the U.S., serving more than 30 million people in 21 states. We are building a People-Centered Health System to put the people we serve at the center of every behavior, action and decision. This brings to life our commitment to be a compassionate, transforming and healing presence in our communities. We advocate for public policies that support better health, better care and lower costs to ensure affordable, high quality, people-centered care for all.

As a Catholic health ministry, we are called both to serve within our communities and to transform systems of care and policies with a dedication to justice and stewardship. Advocacy supports these core values of our faith-based mission, as is stated in the Trinity Health Founding Principle:

We are a prophetic voice as we advocate for social conditions that promote both the common good and the good of every individual.

A key component of this foundational work is engaging grassroots stakeholders in important advocacy activities. Trinity Health is committed to providing our grassroots advocates with robust opportunities to engage, particularly through our eAdvocacy system.

What are we asking and how long will it take?
You will be asked to engage your elected representatives and senators, share with them important information and ask them to support policies that further enhance a People-Centered Health System.

Inspired by our mission, these requests are based on strategic advocacy goals and priorities outlined by the Advocacy Leadership Council with approval of the Trinity Health Board of Trustees.

Through our advanced eAdvocacy system—with a few clicks of the mouse—you can communicate directly with elected officials on either the state or federal level. Within two minutes you can complete the entire process; and it is ok to do it right from work! Occasionally, you'll also have the opportunity to use Twitter and other Social Media platforms to share your thoughts, concerns and requests.

Why does my direct contact matter?
Senators and representatives pay close attention to communications from constituents (yes, you!). Your contact will educate your elected representative and senators about an issue and explain why you feel he/she should take action for/against that issue. Receiving a swarm of communications can greatly impact the way a legislator votes on a particular issue.

Because they deal with a variety of complex issues, elected officials look for information provided by experts in every area they touch. As experts in the health care field, you offer an opportunity to provide a unique perspective. To learn why your engagement voice is important, take a minute to review one of our Committed to Engagement videos, located in the Advocacy Overview section of the Pulse Intranet site.

Furthermore, we elect the government that makes the rules and regulations under which we all live and work. If you want to have a voice, it's important to be involved and take action.
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What are you asking me to communicate about?

Each request to communicate will have a unique theme, with language developed and made available for your use. You also have the opportunity to adjust the copy to add your personal story that relates to the issue at hand. Your eAdvocacy Take Action alert will be communicated through various avenues, including email.

So, why does this matter to me?

Because you work for a health care system that includes hospitals, home health, hospice or skilled nursing providers, you may be directly impacted by the decisions that state and federal legislators make on a routine basis. As health care continues to evolve and be at the forefront of our local, state and national economy, advocacy opportunities become even more important; and our shared voice even more powerful.

When appropriate, we also encourage you to invite your friends and family to engage in eAdvocacy communications, giving an even greater voice to the issues important to the transformation of health care across the nation.

What is my employer doing?

In addition to supporting important grassroots advocacy work, Trinity Health is directly communicating our Essential Elements of Building a People-Centered Health System and other health care policy priorities with our elected officials in Washington D.C. as well as state legislators throughout our 21 states. We also regularly provide comments to executive branch leaders as they implement important legislative policies that impact community ministries. Sharing innovative approaches to providing coordinated, high-value care while expanding access to that care is essential to advocacy communications.

Working closely with associations and coalition partners on a state and national level is also an important component of our advocacy strategy; this includes partners such as: the Catholic Health Association (CHA), the American Hospital Association (AHA), Enroll America, the National PACE Association (NPA), the American Medical Association (AMA), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), LeadingAge (previously known as American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging or AAHSA), the Patient Quality of Life Coalition, AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons), the Health Care Transformation Task Force (HCTTF), the National Association for Homecare and Hospice (NAHC), and many others. Our advocacy voices are greatly strengthened when thousands of individuals and providers around the state and across the nation unify around the same messages.

To learn more about Trinity Health’s work to Lead the Way: Building a People-Centered Health System, please visit the Advocacy section of Pulse Intranet site. There you will find important information about Advocacy, resources and extensive toolkits. You are also invited to visit the interactive Take Action section of our website; there you’ll find important information on active eAdvocacy campaigns and additional resources and information. We look forward to providing you many opportunities to get involved!

How can I learn more?

To learn more, please feel free to contact any member of the Trinity Health Advocacy Department:

- Stephanie Armstrong-Helton, Manager, Communications & Grassroots Advocacy
- Sara Favot, Director, Public Policy & Analysis
- Tina Grant, VP, Public Policy and State Advocacy
- Tonya Wells, VP, Public Policy and Federal Advocacy

http://advocacy.trinity-health.org ✉ advocacy@Trinity-Health.org

Mission: We, Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.

Core Values: Reverence • Commitment to Those Who Are Poor • Justice • Stewardship • Integrity