

# Advocacy Learning Guide for Health Information Management Professionals



**Advocacy** is an action taken by concerned citizens to demonstrate their support for an issue. Each of us is a key player in supporting advocacy at the national, state, and local level.

## Why Advocate?

Our rights as individuals within a nation founded on democracy go beyond the voting booth where we elect people to represent us.

We have an obligation to share our thoughts and opinions on certain matters so that our state and federal representatives and/or senators don't make decisions in a vacuum. If we don't, they will get their information from others who may not have our best interest at heart.

## How do I Advocate and What Impact Can I Have?

### Vote!

**Monitor** legislative activities related to topics of importance to you.

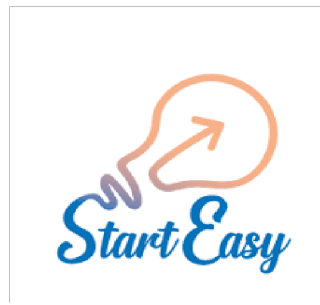
- ✓ Utilize tools offered through the state and federal legislative websites to alert of new/changing bills.

**Engage** via social media, telephone calls, letter-writing, and email to provide your input on certain policy initiatives.

**Participate** in efforts on behalf of AHIMA/NHIMA and the HIM profession.

- ✓ Get involved in petition campaigns, including grassroots campaigns.
- ✓ Build name recognition for AHIMA/NHIMA and HIM Professionals.
- ✓ Make valuable legislative and agency contact.

**Follow Up** with your representatives proposed changes to statutes and/or senators to offer additional



Email your local representatives either individually or as part of a campaign coordinated by NHIMA or AHIMA.



## When is the Best Time to Engage?

- ✓ Beginning of a legislative session for introductory purposes
- ✓ For introductory purposes at other intervals of change (i.e. a new chairperson appointment of a committee, recall election changes, etc)
- ✓ To urge hearings on specific topics and statutes
- ✓ To express support or opposition for an issue, regulation, legislation, amendments, et al.
- ✓ Invitation to a key policymaker to appear, speak, or attend a function
- ✓ Anytime is an opportunity to build relationships and an opportunity for influence



# Getting to Know the Nebraska Legislative Website:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>



- 1 Access the Legislative Calendar.
- 2 Search for specific Bills and Laws.
- 3 See what is new in 2024.
- 4 Enter your home address to find out who your representatives are.

## The NE State Legislature

[How a bill becomes law: Virtual Capitol Experience](#)

## [Nebraska Unicameral](#)

## Connect with the Nebraska Hospital Association

[Advocacy Day](#)

## Join the Advocacy efforts with the American Health Information Management Association

Health Information Advocate - [Subscribe here - AHIMA Advocacy | Agenda](#)

Grassroots Advocacy Award - [Grassroots-Advocacy-Award.pdf \(nhima.org\)](#)

