

Public Policy Panel (PPP) Policies and Procedures for Review of Legislation

Purpose: Establishes a standardized method and guidelines for ADA/MDA members or groups to use when requesting MDA review of new or previously unsupported proposed legislation or bills.

Ensures uniformity and equitability in the way review of issues new to MDA are completed. Informs Public Policy Coordinator (PPC), State Regulatory Specialist (SRS) and State Policy Representative (SPR) of the issue and how it aligns with ADA's and MDA's Mission, Values and Strategic Plans as well as ADA's and MDA's Public Policy Priority Areas. Expedites screening and review process by ensuring relevant materials and data are submitted with the request.

Guidelines: ADA/MDA members and groups and other external entities submitting proposed legislation for PPP review must submit a letter to the PPC with the following materials and data described (see attached Letter to Review Legislation template). Requests will be screened and reviewed based on these requirements and on additional research that PPP may undertake to make timely and informed decisions. After Letter to Review Legislation request is submitted, PPP reviews may take between up to 4 weeks to complete.

1. Legislation must align with ADA's priority areas.

Generally, if ADA does not have a position on the issue, MDA does not take a position on the issue. If the request is to support legislation and ADA has a position of support for the issue, then MDA may decide to support the bill. To the contrary, if ADA has a position opposing this issue, MDA may choose to either oppose the bill or not take a position. The state political environment is always taken into consideration. Some consideration may also be given to a review of MDA's public policy priority areas.

Priority areas may change over time. The following are examples of ADA priority areas as of 4/2011

- Aging,
- Child Nutrition,
- Food and Safety,
- Health Literacy and Nutrition Advancement,
- Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,
- Medical Nutrition Therapy and Medicare/Medicaid,
- Nutrition Monitoring and Research,
- Obesity/Overweight/Healthy Weight Management

2. The Public Policy Panel reviews the legislation and decides by simple majority of members, at a meeting, phone conference or via email:
 - **Agrees to support**
 - **Agrees to support with recommendations** (an example would be to include Registered Dietitian/DTR in the language of the legislation if appropriate)
 - **Not support** (a not support doesn't always mean we don't agree with legislation but that it does not align with ADA's priority areas)
 - **Monitor: neither support nor not support.**
3. Public Policy Panel (PPP) reports to MDA's Board of Directors for final approval of recommendations made by PPP. Final approval will be by simple majority of BOD at a meeting, phone conference or via email.
4. Public Policy Coordinator will report back results to person submitting 'Letter to Review Legislation'.