



Join Us!

OPPA Member Grassroots Advocates

If You Believe Advocating for Your Profession and Your Patients is Important, Then We Need Your Help!

Why become a grassroots advocate?

There are many benefits to becoming a Grassroots Advocate! The most important one is that you can have your voice heard and make a difference in influencing policy and laws related to mental illness, substance use and/or health care in general!

What does a grassroots advocate do?

In Ohio, there are 132 legislators (99 Representatives and 33 Senators), and each one serves an important role in helping to shape the future of psychiatry and medicine; some more than others, depending upon their leadership positions and/or the committees they serve on. As a grassroots advocate, you will be helping to advance the OPPA's advocacy goals and priorities by educating and helping to influence your representatives. The relationship you develop with your elected officials could make all the difference between a "yes" vote and a "no" vote!

Grassroots Advocate Responsibilities

1. Identify contact information for your Representative and Senator. All you need is your zip code. Simply go to: www.legislature.state.oh.us
2. Begin to develop (or continue to strengthen) a personal relationship with your legislators!
3. Become familiar with the legislative process—learn how a bill is passed in Ohio!
3. Take action when the OPPA contacts you for help with a specific initiative. When you sign up as a grassroots advocate, you will from time to time receive an e-mail asking for your help. As a grassroots advocate, you are committing to take prompt action.
4. Remember a grassroots advocate is always looking for opportunities to address the cause and never gives up!
5. Let us know what you are doing locally! We may want to build upon your efforts by sharing ideas with the membership!

Still not sure? Want to talk with OPPA's Executive Director or a member of the OPPA Executive Committee or Government Relations Committee? Just call us at 1-614-763-0040 and we will put you in contact with someone right away!

BECOME A GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE!

Name _____

Home Address (which determines legislative districts) _____

Zip _____

Work Address _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Ways I wish to be involved (check all that apply):

Meet with my legislator in my local district

Meet with my legislator in Columbus

Attend hearings in Columbus

Provide testimony on behalf of the OPPA

Respond to OPPA Advocacy Alerts by calling, e-mailing and/or writing my legislator(s)

Attend OPPA's Annual Advocacy Day event in Columbus

Contribute to OPPAC

Get one or more of my colleagues involved!