

Policy by the People: State Legislative Engagement

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September 20, 2018 Oklahoma City, OK
National Tribal Health Conference
National Indian Health Board



Greetings from North Dakota





American Indian Public Health Resource Center

The mission of the American Indian Public Health Resource Center is to address American Indian public health disparities in partnership with tribal communities in North Dakota, the Northern Plains, and across the Nation

Indigenous
Evaluation

Research TA

Education TA

Services TA

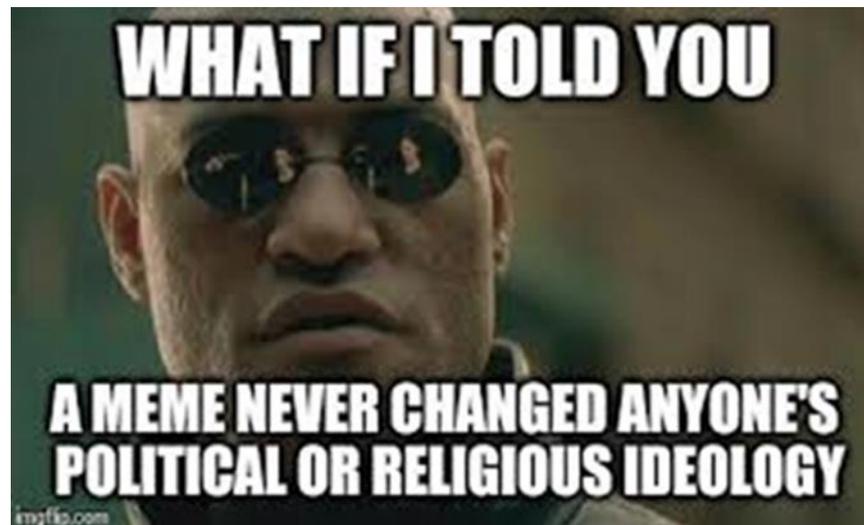
Policy TA

https://www.ndsu.edu/centers/american_indian_health



Policy VS. Politics

- Policy: A course of action proposed or adopted by a government
- Politics: Opinions about what a government should or should not do



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



As introduced



As amended in
committee

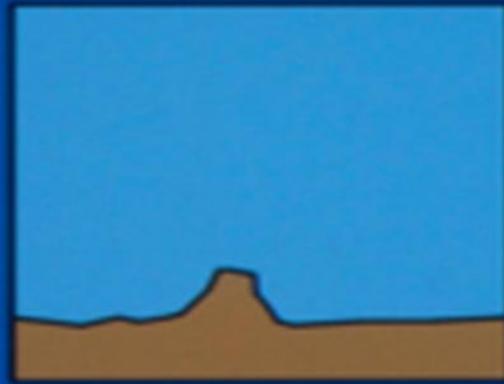


As amended on
second reading


CG-167488-01



As enacted



**As funded by joint
budget committee**



**As implemented by
the state agency**



CG-147488-02





**As reported by
the media**

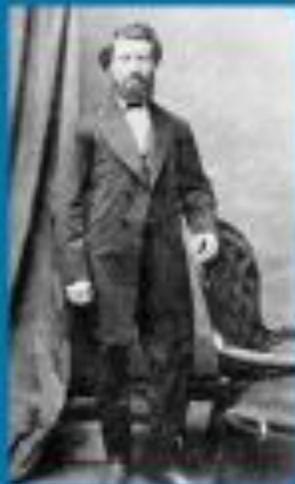


**As understood
by the public**



**What was actually
needed**


CG-147488-03





Lobbyist:
someone hired by a business or a cause to persuade legislators to support that business or cause

Advocate:
person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy

Policy Takes A Village

Analyst

Advocate

Organizer

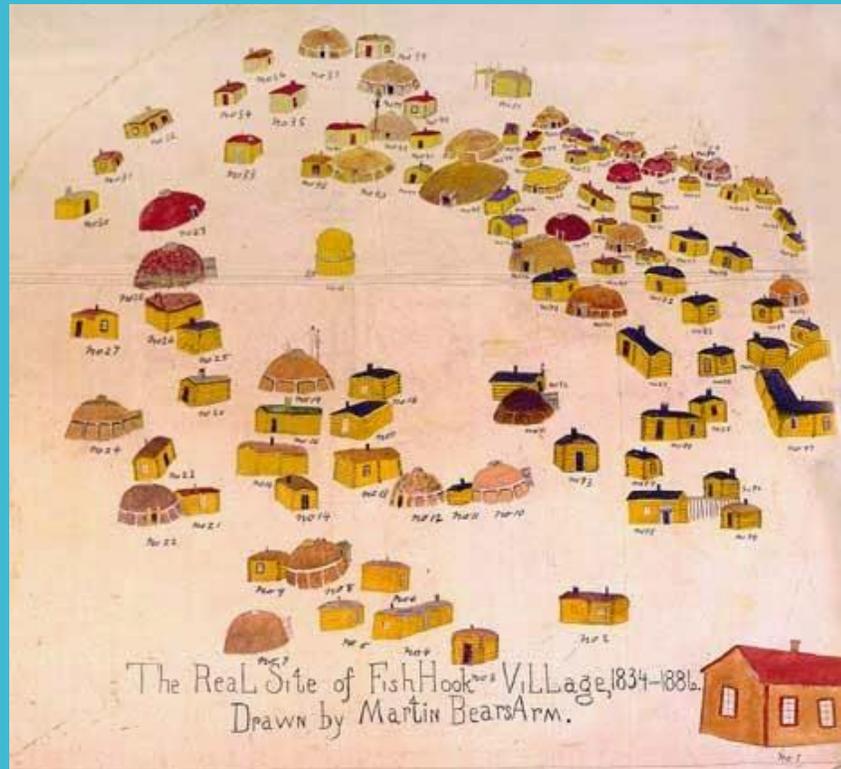
Lobbyist

Special Interest Groups

Legislative Branch

Judicial Branch

Executive Branch



What Will I Do ?

- Share your story
- Meet
- Attend a public forum and ask a question
- Submit an op-ed.
- Use social media
- Email or call
- Run for office





EVERY
NATIVE
VOTE
COUNTS

Tips For Contacting Elected Officials

- Be Respectful
- Remember they are “your employee”
- You have the right to communicate with them, as long as you aren’t harassing or threatening them
- Send a post visit thank you note if you meet in person
- Don’t quit advocating! The wheels of government are slow. Keep the issue in their sight: emails, visits, letters to the editor, town halls, advocacy events on the issue
- Encourage others to contact their elected officials, the more constituents who contact them, the greater the need for attention and action is created



Attending A Hearing And Testifying

- Look up the time the committee is meeting and what room they are meeting in
- Plan out what you will be saying
- Type it up and bring copies for all committee members if possible, email it to the committee clerk
- Sign the witness sheet (usually at the lectern)
- Start testimony as "Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Citizen X from Zap. I'm in favor of/against this bill because...."
- Be brief, avoid rambling and repeating
- There maybe questions from the committee, if you don't know the answer tell them you will find out and email it to them.
- Stay in the room after you have testified, it is common for a committee to vote on a bill after hearing all testimony



Putting It All Together

- **Be specific about your concern**
“Native infants experience the highest mortality rates in ND”
- **State the impact it is having on voters**
“More than twice as many native infants die in infancy than white infants ”
- **Personalize the issue**
“Two of my sisters have had newborns die of SIDS”
- **Suggest a solution**
“Fund CHR Prenatal Education and Visit Services”





**You've
Got
The
Power**

