State Issues, State Legislature: How it Works and How to Work it
Welcome!

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Agenda

- Goal
- How a Bill becomes a Law
- Before your Visit
- During your Visit
- After your Visit
- What’s next?
Goal

• Getting started
  – Practical
    ➢ Tools
    ➢ Tips
    ➢ Takeaways
How a Bill becomes a Law

- How a Bill becomes a Law
  - Bill Introduced “First Reading”
  - Assigned to Committee
  - If passes, Second/Third Reading
  - If passes, goes to other House
  - If passes, goes to Governor
  - S/he can sign, let it take effect, or veto.

- Once approved, it becomes “Chaptered”
How a Bill becomes a Law (cont.)

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov
Before you visit: When?

• Legislative Calendar:
  – March-May

  ➢ http://www.legislature.ca.gov/the_state_legislature/calendar_and_schedules/calendar_schedules.html
Before your visit - Research

- Research and tailor your message
  - Where are they from?
    - Who are their constituents?
      - [http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/)
  - What committees do they sit on?
    - Committee on Higher Education
    - Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance
  - Have they taken positions on or authored legislation related to your issues?
Before your visit - Prepare

Meet and prepare:
Set up appointments
Track
Who is meeting with who?

Establish Talking Points:
Concise
Personal stories
Data

Take away document:
Support Talking Points
Contact information
During your Visit

- Arrive early
- Comfortable Shoes and phone chargers
- Prepare for the Unexpected
  - Flexibility...
During your Visit

• Introductions
  – Who we are
  – Summary of why we are here

• Present Your Topic(s)

• Tell Your Story
  – Why are these topics important to you?
  – Why are they important to this legislative office (members themselves, constituents)?
During your Visit (cont.)

• Make Your Ask
  – Be explicit about what you want the Legislator’s action to be.

• Share your contact information
  – Business cards
After your visit: Follow-up

Thank-you
- Letter, email
- Remind them who you are
- Recap of ask
- Links to information you cited in meeting

Follow up questions
- Yours
- Theirs
What’s next?

• Currently in year one of a two-year legislative cycle (2019-2020)
• AB 1314: Cal Grant reform
• Advocacy: You matter!
Thank you!

• Join CASFAA State Issues Committee
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