**Advocating vs. Lobbying**

Individuals acting on their own can pursue any type of advocacy

Lobbying for specific legislation or political parties is off limits to many non-profit organizations

The following are not considered lobbying:

* Communicating with or educating decision-makers and the general public about the general importance of policies.
* Advocating for specific policies considered by non-legislative groups (e.g. retailer associations, school boards, state boards of health, public transportation authorities)
* Advocating for issues among audiences such as state attorneys general, regulatory authorities, administrative agencies, or police authorities for additional or more effective law enforcement or regulation.
* Advocacy aimed at governmental executives (e.g. Mayors, Governors) as long as you are not asking them to promote, discourage, or veto legislation.
* Public interest litigation or related judicial activities.
* Developing policy positions that are different from a specific legislative proposal.
* Testifying before legislative committee (if the committee has requested testimony) or testifying on a subject that involves an organization’s own self-defense.
* Distributing voter registration material, as long as it provides non-biased presentation of the positions of all the candidates’ ideas and presents a broad range of issues.