Advocating for the Counseling Profession

Thursday, July 28, 2016
Why do we advocate?

• We advocate to effectuate political change.

• POLITICS IS NOT A BAD THING

• We advocate to promote and protect the profession.
Do we have an obligation to advocate?

“When appropriate, counselors advocate at individual, group, institutional, and societal levels to address potential barriers and obstacles that inhibit access and/or the growth and development of clients.”

-ACA Code of Ethics, Section A.7.a
Does it matter if we advocate?

FACT President David Fowler on ACA
The Profession is facing challenges

- State Licensure laws
- Medicare reimbursement
- Federal funding for school counselors
- Expansion of career opportunities within the VA
- We need you **YOU** to act!!!
Roles and Responsibilities
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• Leaders lead
• Know what is going on
• Take a stand
• Make sure you’re prepared
• Don’t know something? ASK
• THERE IS NO TOMORROW
Use the tools available

• Voter Voice
• Quorum
• Social Media
• Outreach
• Build coalitions with the public
• Your tools and gifts as a counselor
Remember...

- **YOU** are the issue expert!
- **YOU** are the constituent!
- **YOU** know why these issues are important!
- **YOU** know how your community is being affected.
Remember…

“Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.”

-Abraham Lincoln
Questions?