

THE COMMANDMENTS OF ADVOCACY

- I. Thou shall register and vote; you must be in the game to play!
- II. Thou shall know the players: your own legislators, the Committee Chairs, Legislative Leadership, LRC staff and the Executive Branch Secretaries, Commissioners and staff.
- III. Thou shall know your issue well and relate that issue to your legislators, understanding there are many pressing concerns.
- IV. Thou shall understand the process and rules of the game.
- V. Thou shall make available accurate, reliable information to your legislators and other players in a timely fashion!
- VI. Thou shall be creative in building coalitions and partnerships, looking for shared interests, educating others in your cause and working to “put a face” on your issue.
- VII. Thou shall never underestimate your power as an individual to “change the world”.
- VIII. Thou shall be willing to compromise, to put a foot in the door.
- IX. Thou shall stay in touch with your legislators all the time – not just during the session.
- X. Thou shall never give up...there’s always the next session!
- XI. **MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT: Thou shall treat the legislator or policy-maker as you would want to be treated – with courtesy, respect and a “Thank You”!**