

You Don't Have to Be a Lobbyist: Grassroots Advocacy

The main lesson in this workshop was to start small. Advocacy is telling someone that the joke wasn't funny, or saying "I have a gay relative and I care about this issue". However many PFLAGers eventually want to do more and the advice was to start locally, with School Board or City Council. Determine what education the chapter needs to understand the issue, then talk to the chapter so that they know what is planned. We should identify local allies and individual connections, then invite them to meetings, picnics, or just ask an individual out for coffee. The idea is to get to know them, let them know you, and educate them. People hold the power to change, and our stories are powerful. Avoid getting into an argument or letting others define the issue. And finally, never give up.

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