

POLICY ON LOBBYING

PURPOSE: To clarify UUFB's stance on lobbying.

DEFINITION: In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as **lobbying**). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.

Legislation includes action by Congress, any state legislature, any local council, or similar governing body, with respect to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (such as legislative confirmation of appointive office), or by the public in referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment, or similar procedure. It does not include actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies.

An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.--From the IRS website

Policy: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman (UUFB) will not tell people to support or oppose any bill or issue, nor will we instruct others to contact politicians to voice their opinions. Similarly, UUFB will not campaign for or against any political candidate.

We will, however, continue to fulfill our role and live our values by **educating** about issues that are congruent with our beliefs and providing contact information. We simply will not **tell** UUFB members to make that contact.

EXAMPLE:

The hearing for [HB 361](#) has been scheduled!

HB 361: Provide funding to school districts for English language learners

- Hearing: Wednesday-2/12/25; 3:00 p.m.
- House Education— Room 137

You can make a difference!

- **You can testify in person in Helena**
- **you can REGISTER NOW TO TESTIFY VIRTUALLY:**
<https://www.legmt.gov/participate/>
- **You can call the Legislative Operator 406-444-4800 to voice your support to Education Committee members**

Notice that this announcement gives information on when the bill is scheduled for a hearing. It also tells you that you **can** testify in person, you **can** register to testify virtually, or you **can** call members of the Education Committee. This announcement does not **tell** you to do these things and, therefore, does not constitute lobbying. It would also be perfectly acceptable to provide education on the substance of the bill and of pros and cons of the bill.

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