Staying in the Good Graces of Your Legislature

Presenters:
Anne McGihon
Laurel Brunke
Regina Dinger

Promoting Regulatory Excellence

Presenter: Anne McGihon,
Akerman Senterfitt, LLP

A Legislator’s Perspective

• Served in Colorado General Assembly in both the Minority and Majority.
• Chaired House Health and Human Services Committee with Jurisdiction over numerous professions within the Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Registration.
• Chaired Joint House and Senate Committee that reviewed all DORA rules and regulations.
Communicate with your legislators early and often.

- Meet with Committee Chairs with jurisdiction over your issues.
- Whether or not you can testify, you can contact legislators and be available as a resource.
- Consider one page newsletters directed to educate legislators on your issues.
- Be open to alternatives.

Don't Say “No”

- Recognize that Legislators create public policy.
- They may bring ideas from constituents that practice in a field, and the ideas may be good!
- Legislators' obligation is to serve their constituents and the public, not you.
- Saying “no” instead of “let's think about how to do that” cuts you out of the process.

“Getting to Yes”

- In Colorado, we have worked to develop ways of “getting to yes.”
- Requires a regulator who listens, is flexible, and willing to grow/learn.
- Bringing together legislators, regulators and interested parties on issues of importance.
- Assisting legislators in meeting goals with drafting, technical support, and testimony.
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BC Parliamentary System

- 85 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA’s)
- Executive branch comprised of elected representatives
- Premier in 3rd term

Keys to Success

- Be clear about your mandate
Keys to Success

- Develop long-term, trust-based relationships
- Don’t operate in a vacuum
- Know your champions and who is working against you
- Be part of the process

Achieving Legislative Change

A Case Study

- Issue
- Objective
- Context
- Process
- Results

Speaker Contact Information

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Setting the Stage

How to Approach
- Know what you can and can not do
  - Legal Mandate
- Situational Dependent
  - Requested legislation vs. opposition legislation
  - Regulatory vs. business in nature
Introducing Legislature

- Involve licensees/stakeholders ahead of time
- Approach possible Bill Sponsors
- Notify Governor’s office
- Provide information to the legislators
- Thank everyone for their efforts

Introduced Legislature

- Monitor legislation
- Approach Bill Sponsor
- Work with the Legislators
- Keep the Governor informed
- Keep Licensees/Stakeholders informed
- Enlist the registration board association

Common Threads for Success

- Keep everyone informed
- Work the Issues
- Stay positive
- Realize that some things are beyond your control
**Speaker Contact Information**

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