



## LOBBYING vs. ADVOCACY

Federal tax law [specifies](#) how much lobbying a non-profit can do. However, while all lobbying is advocacy, not all advocacy is lobbying. FABBS pays careful attention to this distinction and it may be relevant to you at your university.

**Lobbying** is any attempt to influence government policy through communication with a policy maker that takes a position on specific legislation.

**Advocacy** is much broader and encompasses the majority of FABBS' work with policymakers in Washington, DC.

### FABBS lobbying includes:

- Meeting with congressional staff to support funding for NIH, NSF, and IES
- Submitting testimony to congressional committees to support science funding and policy
- Asking Members of Congress to cosponsor legislation or sign letters of support for science agencies

### FABBS advocacy includes:

- Responding to requests for information from federal agencies
- Educating policymakers, including by sharing research findings from our disciplines and highlighting how our sciences address agency and congressional priorities
- Meeting with agency officials to learn more about programs in which our members might be interested

### **As a researcher** affiliated with a university:

- You are meeting with an agency program manager to learn about an upcoming competitive proposal. **This is not lobbying.**
- You are officially appointed to a committee to recommend funding priorities for a federal program, or you serve on a merit review committee. **This is not lobbying.**
- You join FABBS to meet with congressional staff and ask for funding increase at NSF. **This is lobbying and your institution may want to know about it.**

**It's a great idea to get to know your university government relations team, they can be a valuable resource!**

See more: <https://www.cmu.edu/govrel/lobbying/index.html>