



OPPORTUNITIES

The following opportunities were designed to give you a chance to incorporate skills from today's module into your professional practice. Many of these opportunities can be done in as little as 5 minutes. You are encouraged to choose opportunities that relate to your personal interests and that fit within your schedule.

OPPORTUNITIES IN AS LITTLE AS 5 MINUTES:

- Look up your state legislature's Web site and set it as a favorite on your computer.
- Look up the Congressional Web site and set it as a favorite on your computer. Links for the above sites can be found in the AAP Advocacy Guide and on the AAP Member Center.
- Look up your decision-maker(s) phone number and e-mail address and program it into your cell phone and/or PDA.
- Watch for AAP Federal Advocacy Action Network (FAAN) alerts by e-mail to learn about when your voice is needed to weigh-in on federal bills affecting children's health and the profession of pediatrics. Keep your eyes open to issues that you see affecting your patients.
- Check with your AAP chapter to see if they have a state advocacy e-mail alert and sign-up to receive updates.
- Keep your eyes open to issues affecting your patients.
- Leave a copy of the "How a Bill becomes a Law" board game in the lounge or general meeting place at your place of residency. Encourage your colleagues to play the game as their time allows.
- E-mail or call your local, state, or federal decision-maker about an issue you care about.
- Visit the Web site <http://www.vote-smart.org> to learn about how your congresspeople stand on issues you care about.

OPPORTUNITIES IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES:

- Find a state or federal legislative issue that is important to you and find one way that you can weigh-in to influence the process.
- Contact your local AAP Chapter to find out about the state and federal issues they are working on and where these bills are in the legislative process.
- Complete the attached advocacy leadership skills inventory to identify your personal strengths and find an advocacy activity that relates to your interests.

OPPORTUNITIES IN ABOUT AN HOUR:

- Tour your state capitol building or city hall to learn more about how your decision-makers work and the decision-making process.
- Attend a local city council, county commissioner, or state legislative hearing, or congressional townhall meeting in your area on an issue that you care about.