



# Grassroots 101: The Legislative Process

In order to influence policy, it is essential to understand the legislative process. There are numerous steps and actions that must be taken in order for a bill to become a law.

- Legislation can originate in either the House or Senate
- Once introduced, the bill is directed to the relevant committee
- Next, House/Senate leaders schedule the bill for Floor Consideration
- House/Senate will debate/amend the bill
- Then, the House/Senate must vote to pass the bill
- Bills must pass the House and Senate before being presented to the president for signature
- The president may do one of three things:
  1. Sign the bill into law
  2. Veto the bill (Senate/House may override with 2/3 majority)
  3. If the president does not sign in 10 days:
    - If Congress is in session, bill becomes a law
    - If Congress is not in session, bill does not become law (pocket veto)

## Additional Resources

**CEC Legislative Action Center:**  
<http://capwiz.com/cek/home/>

**CAN Resources:** [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

**Federal Hearings:**  
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/chearings/index.html>

**Monitor Legislation on The Federal Register:**  
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

**Congressional Contact Information:**  
<http://capwiz.com/cek/dbq/officials/>

**House of Representatives:** <http://www.house.gov>

**Senate:** <http://www.senate.gov>