

The ATE Commission on Advocacy
Appointed by Judy Beck, ATE President 2020-2021
Co-Chairs: Ann Shelly and Jim Alouf

Members: Pat Swails, Christina Ellis, Tom Conway, Christian Legler, Phillip Bernhardt

Ex Officio members: Judy Beck, Alisa Chapman

ATE is beginning their second century at a pivotal moment in time. In 2019, all 50 states presented legislation that would impact K-16 education. In 2020, that number is already at 29 and 380+ pieces of legislation. The time to act is now!

Citizens are more powerful than they realize when it comes to influencing members of Congress. A study conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation discovered constituent visits to the Washington, D.C., office (97%) and to the district/state office (94%) have “some” or “a lot” of influence on an undecided member of Congress.

However, advocacy doesn't always mean trying to change the regulations and laws, but working towards a resolution. A Member can educate the public about the important role that having a diverse educator pipeline plays in improving their lives. This education can take place in the form of conversations with family, friends and colleagues about education issues and the importance of advocacy. You also can use your social media platforms or submit op-eds and letters to the editor to your local newspapers to highlight key education issues and priorities.

The commission will work toward the following:

- 1) Development of an advocacy guidebook for State Units
- 2) Updating the ATE policy framework relating to advocacy
- 3) Other deliverables that may come about as a result of the organic discussion of the group