Parent Advocacy
What can Parents do?

Advocate for the needs of their loved ones to change the laws protecting & improving services for them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>WIP  2023</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amended the DBMD Waiver to be from Birth to Earth</td>
<td>Established a Career ladder for Interveners</td>
<td>Got Increased Slots &amp; Pay rates for all services in the DBMD Waiver</td>
<td>Had automatic pay raises the next legislative session</td>
<td>Increase the DBMD Waiver Budget Cap &amp; Slots</td>
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How can you participate?

- Look-up Who Represents you: [https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home](https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home)
- Reach out to your legislators to let them know you and your child live in their area – which means you are their “Constituent” (can vote for them 😊)
- Write them about the legislative ask by using a template email (usually provided) and adding to it to make it reflect your Family’s story as well.
- Share any whitepaper and other information provided
- Join in when groups plan a visit to the Capital and visit your legislator’s office
- Thank the Legislators and their staff for their time. Then keep in touch.
What to expect when Visiting the State Capital

- There is a convenient Parking Lot 1 block away https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/parking/parking.html
  1201 San Jacinto Blvd
  Austin, TX 78701
  ($12 max/day)

- You will have to pass through security when you enter the capital.
- No water bottles, but closed cans and snacks are allowed. As well as bags with papers (i.e. info and story packets)
Meeting at the Rotunda

- It is most common for groups to meet at the “rotunda” which is in the center on the ground level. It is a big circular area under the Capital’s peak.
DBMAT At the State Capital

See Us, Hear Us!
Come join our team on the State Level

Everyone has a voice…. let’s use it

1) Increase the number of individuals served by the Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Waiver. We ask that funding be increased to allow for at least a minimum of 50 slots to be released every year, to keep the population served as it grows.
Come join our team on the State Level

Everyone has a voice…. let’s use it

2) Adjust the DBMD Waiver caps to reflect inflation, in the same manner of the Federal Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment ("COLA") DBMD Waiver cost cap to be increased to $143,534.82, which is 25.1% (half the COLA increases as a starting point). This is an ask of approximately 1% per year for the last 25 years.
It gets easier the more you reach out to Legislators and their staff. They are there to help 😊
DB Legislative Group
Hosted by DBMAT

Collaboration = Teamwork
Help us Help you!

Join the **DB Legislative Group**
(Melanie has a sign-up sheet or you can email us and we will add you!)

Quarterly Meetings from 7:30-8:30:
- Oct. 17th
- Jan. 16th
- April 16th
- July 16th

Melanie Knapp
[melanie.knapp@dbmat-tx.org](mailto:melanie.knapp@dbmat-tx.org)

Vivecca Hartman
[president@dbmat-tx.org](mailto:president@dbmat-tx.org)
There is power in numbers and our voice is louder if we join together to be heard. See Us, Hear Us!

Cogswell- Macy Act
NFADB HOST

- NFADB’s PIE Committee - 2016
- Beginnings of FATE =2021- Family Advocacy Training and Education
- Our National Advocacy Agenda
- FACE for Deaf-Blind = Family Advocacy Coalition Educating for Deaf-Blind
- Deaf-Blind Day on the Hill
#1 Ask: Education State Plan

- Define Deaf-Blind
- Require qualified personnel
- Interveners as related services
- Technical assistance
- Transition plans to follow to adult life
Qualified Personnel

- Teachers of Students that are DeafBlind
- Interveners
Recognize Interveners as a related service in IDEA
Technical Assistance

- National Center on Deafblindness-NCDB
- State DeafBlind Projects
Transition Plans

- Transition plans to adult life align with a State Plan for Adults (#2 ASK)
#2 Ask: State Plan for Adults

Require states to develop a State Plan for Adults

- Coordinated with education transition plan
- Provide array of support services
- Provide DB Medicaid Waiver
Resources

If you want more information on our National Advocacy Agenda:

www.nfadb.org

We also have position papers from a Family’s point of view: Definition, Qualified Personnel, Interveners, Co-Navigators.
Together we can do So Much!!

If you collaborate with other parents and organizations, you can make a difference. There is strength and power in numbers.

- 1 person = A fruitcake
- 2 people = A fruitcake and a friend
- 3 people = Troublemakers
- 5 people = “Let’s have a meeting”
- 10 people = “We’d better listen”
- 25 people = “Our dear friends”
- 50 people = A powerful organization"