

*Action Alert: Does Your State
Require Insurance Coverage of
Children's Hearing Aids?*

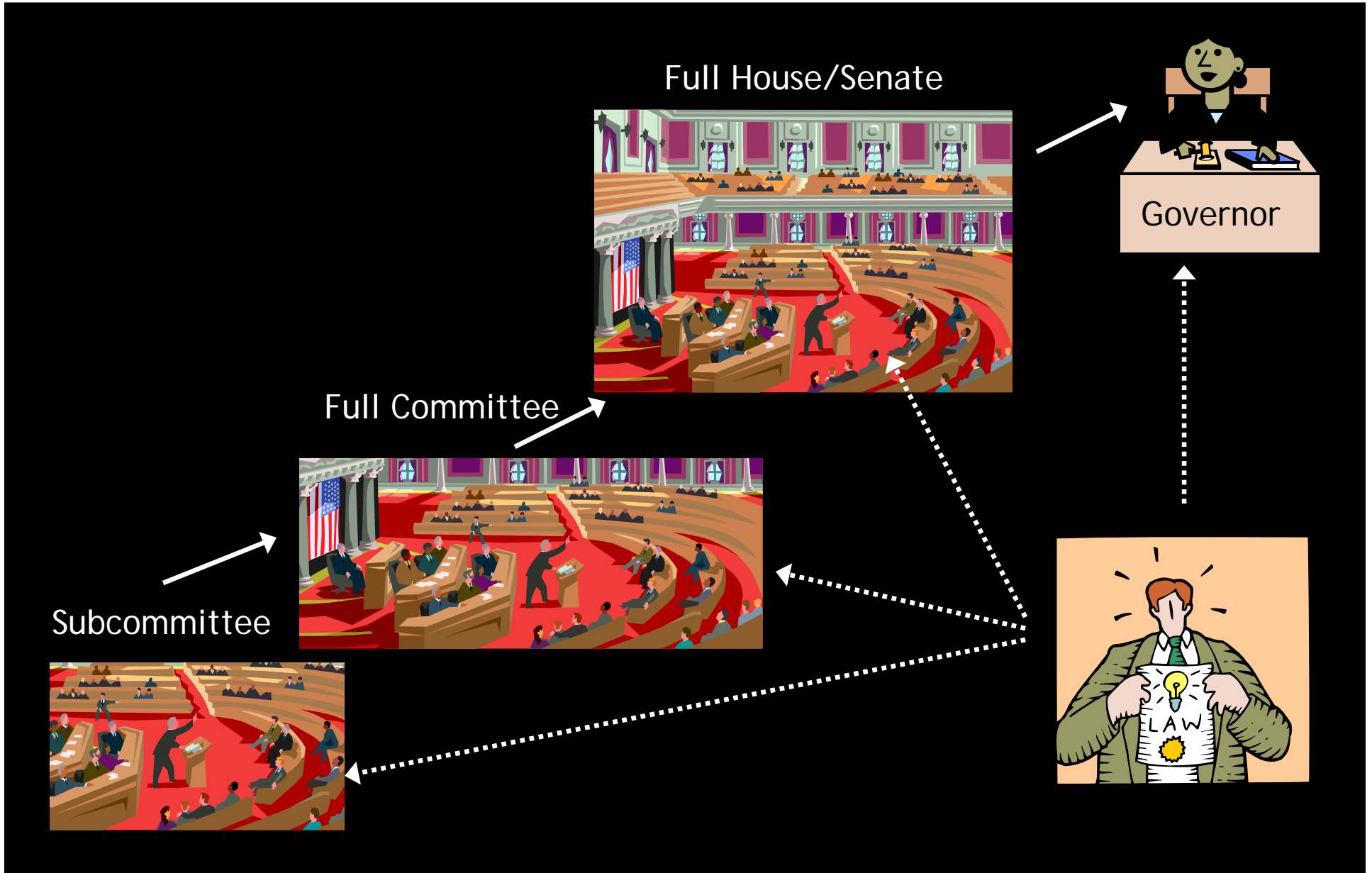
Joni Alberg

BEGINNINGS For Parents of Children Who Are
Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.

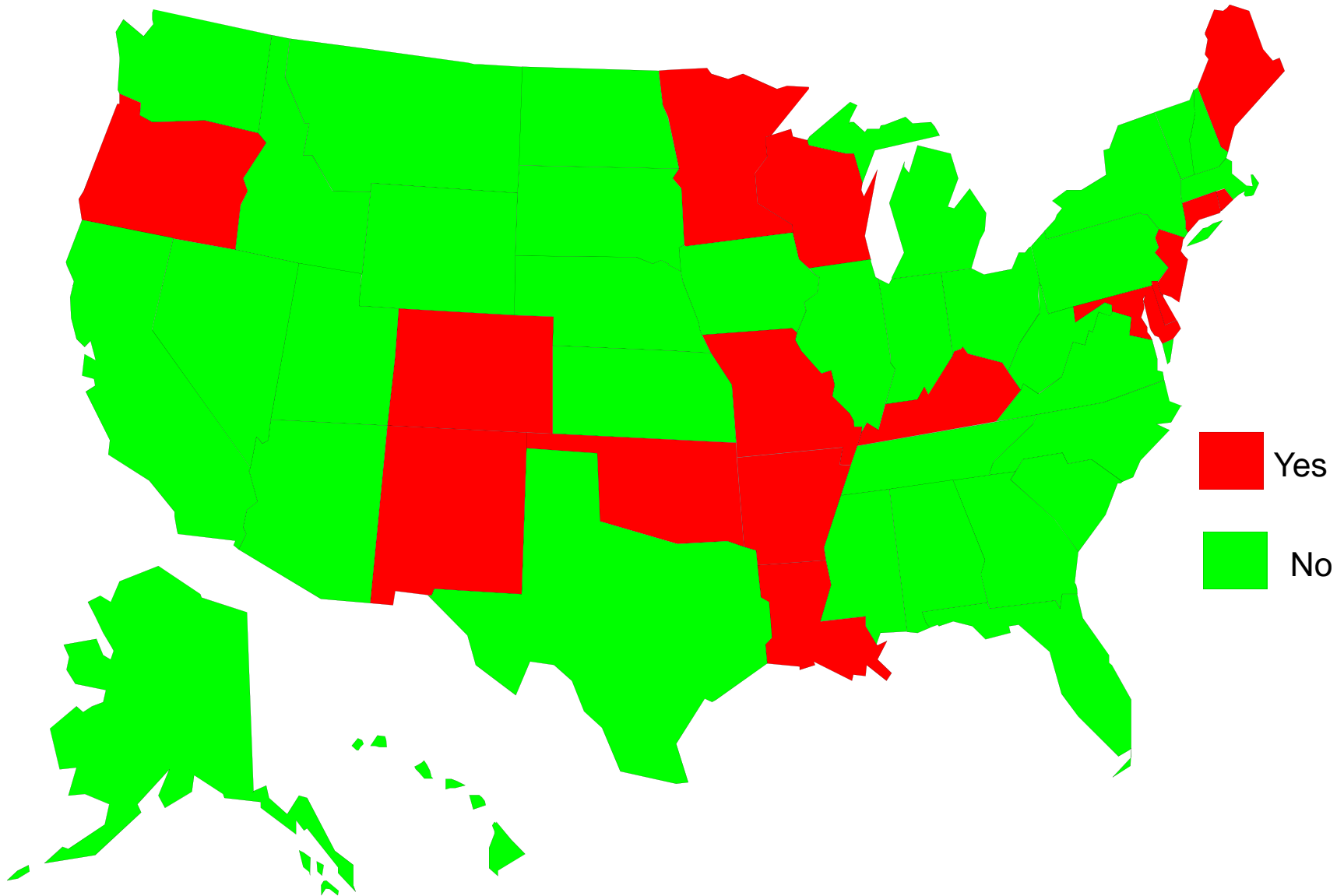
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Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

How a Bill Becomes a Law



Success!



Features of Laws

Specifics of coverage (hearing aids, ear molds, dispensing fees, etc.)

Age of children covered

Frequency of benefit

Amount of coverage

Effective date

Age Ranges

- No limits mentioned - *Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin*
- Minor Children - *Maryland*
- ≥ 15 years - *New Jersey*
- ≥ 19 years - *Rhode Island*
- ≥ 24 years - *Delaware*
- 18 years - *Colorado, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma*
- > 18 years or > 21 if still in high school - *New Mexico*
- > 18 years; older if enrolled in accredited educational institution - *Oregon*





Frequency

- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 2 years (n=1)

OR

- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 3 years (n=11)

OR

- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 4 years (n=2)

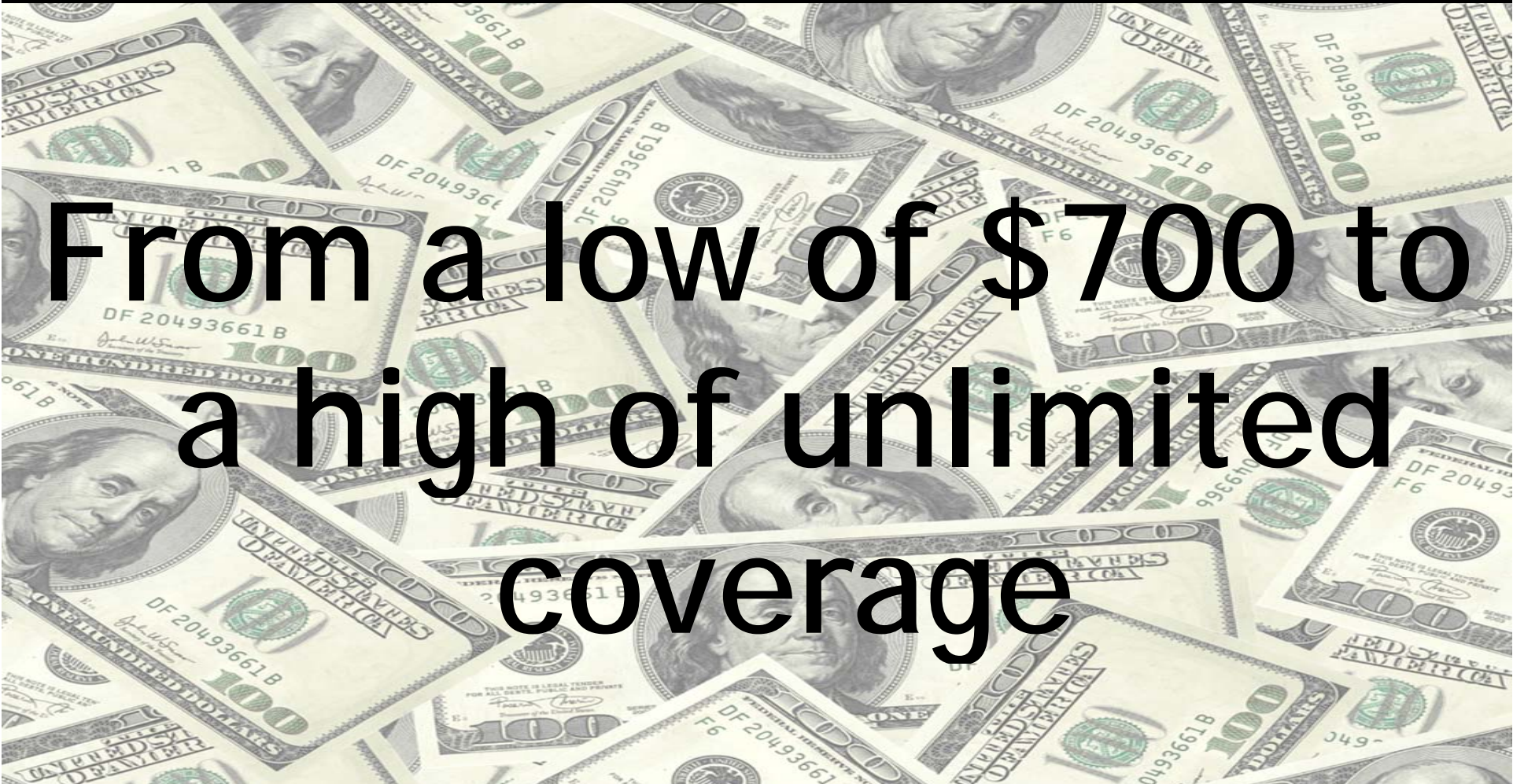
OR

- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 5 years (n=1)

OR

- No limits (n=1)

Amount of Coverage



From a low of \$700 to
a high of unlimited
coverage

On average, \$1,400 per hearing aid.

NC Legislation Status

- \$2,500 per ear/36 mos./ \leq 21 yrs.
- 3 House & 2 Senate Committees
 - Passed Senate
 - Sent to conference committee ...where it remains to be addressed
May 12, 2010

www.actionalert.hearfromthestart.info



TN Legislation Status

- Up to \$1,000 per hearing aid every three years until the age of 24
- In subcommittees in both the House and Senate
- Created website:
www.hearintn.com



Strategies

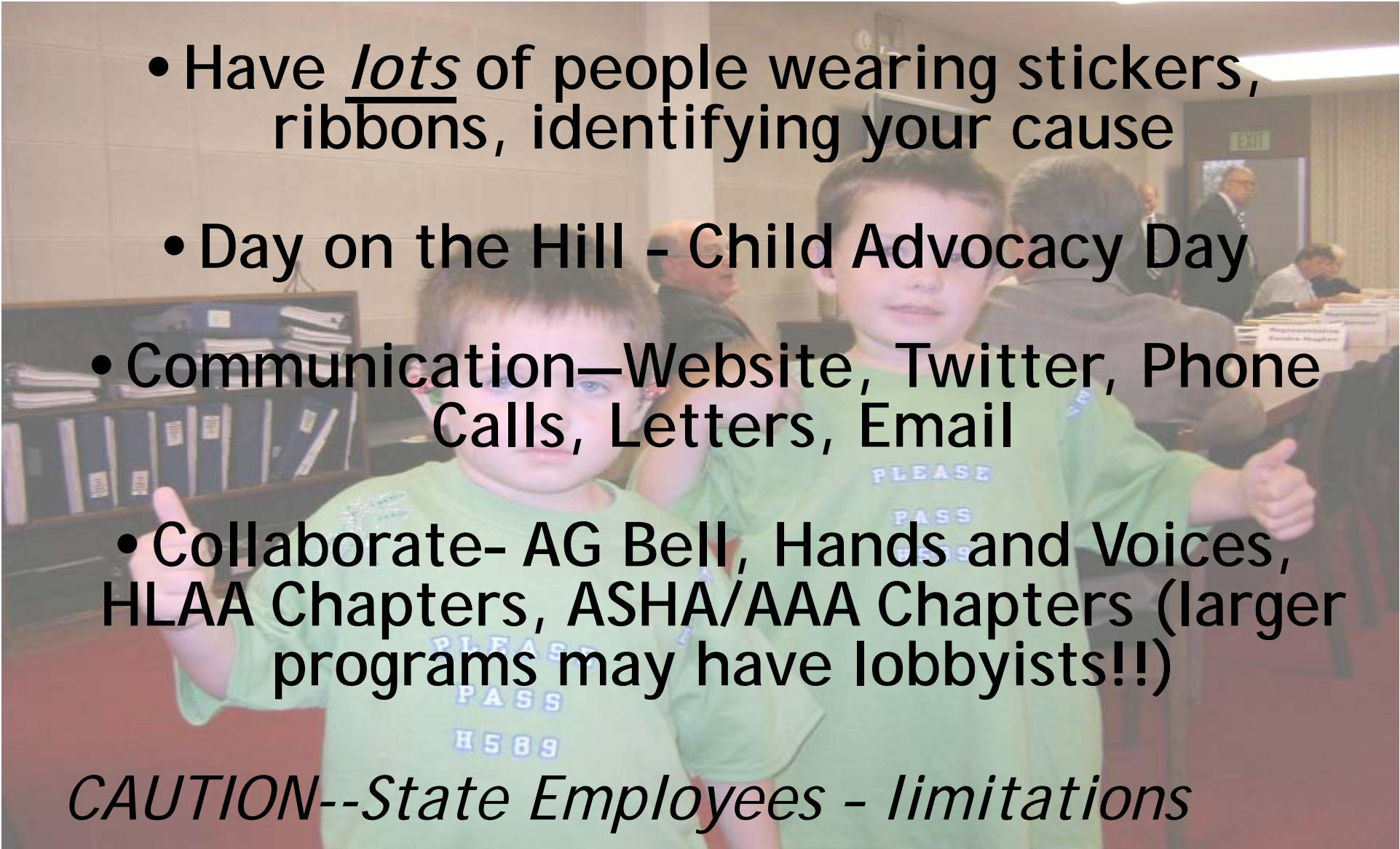
- Begin BEFORE the legislative session begins (draft language, sponsors)
- Children's voices
- One person as primary contact for legislators—
Expert witness
- Build relationships and alliances—including insurance lobbyists
- Fact sheet/brochure
 - Minimal printed information—one-page



What Legislators What to Know

- ✓ Cost now vs. savings later
 - ✓ # children/families impacted by county/district
 - ✓ Insurance premium increase due to mandate
- ✓ How many people will be affected by this law
 - ✓ Just the facts



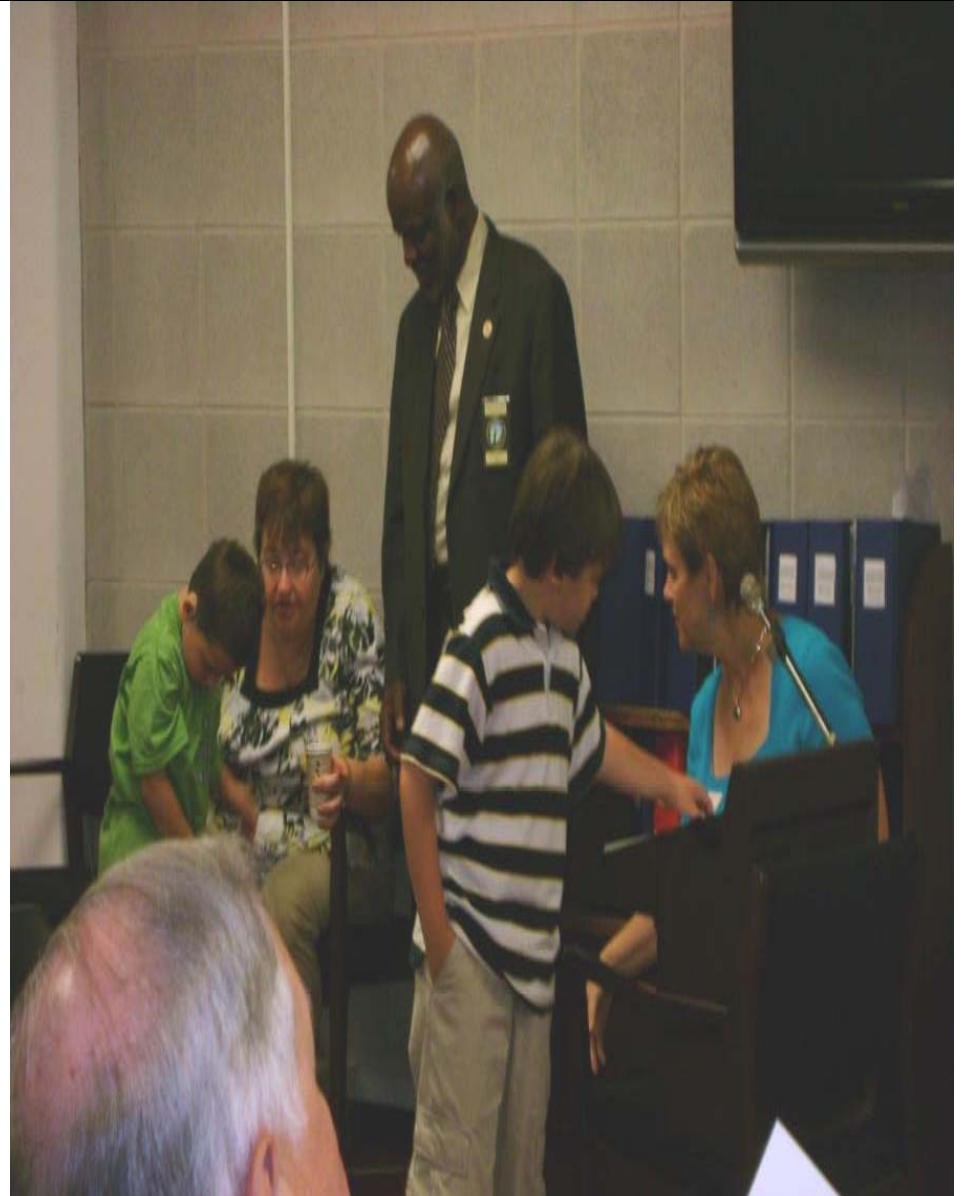
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- Have lots of people wearing stickers, ribbons, identifying your cause
 - Day on the Hill - Child Advocacy Day
 - Communication—Website, Twitter, Phone Calls, Letters, Email
 - Collaborate- AG Bell, Hands and Voices, HLAA Chapters, ASHA/AAA Chapters (larger programs may have lobbyists!!)

CAUTION--State Employees - limitations

Activities

Lessons Learned

- Know your facts
- Follow your bill every step of the way
- Take nothing for granted
- Make the issue REAL



CONTACT US

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