

February 2012

Certification Corner

Q: You mentioned in a previous column that you would be adding some new legislative tools to the website. Have those tools been added yet? If so, what are they – and how will we benefit from them?

A: Yes, the new tools have been added to the website! Here's how to find them: From the IAHCSSM home page, click on the "Government Affairs" drop down menu and then click on **legislative tools** (<http://www.iahcssm.org/GovernmentAffairs/LegislativeTools.html>). Under Certification Resources, I added an example of a **memo of support** (<http://www.iahcssm.org/GovernmentAffairs/images/Memo-of-Support-NY.pdf>) that we are using for our certification bill in New York. It demonstrates how we are explaining the certification issue to legislators.



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Another newly-added document is **How a Bill Becomes Law in the States** (<http://www.iahcssm.org/GovernmentAffairs/images/HOW-A-BILL-BECOMES-LAW-IN-THE-STATES.pdf>). This time, instead of trying to explain it in words, I used pictures. As you will see, there are many steps that a bill must pass before it becomes law. I'm sure this pictorial will bring back memories of your high school government/civics class.

Additionally, I created a **Grassroots Handbook** (www.iahcssm.org/GovernmentAffairs/images/The-Art-of-Advocacy_2-9-12_final.pdf) for members. This handbook discusses what grassroots is, how a bill becomes law, the steps we are taking for our certification efforts, an example of an action alert email that includes screen shots of an actual action alert, and do's and don'ts when meeting with elected officials. It is my hope that this handbook will provide members with a user-friendly guide of how we are approaching the certification issue. Please take a moment to review the document.

I hope that you will find these tools helpful as we move along in introducing certification legislation across the country