STOP THE BLEED® State Advocacy
Do’s & Don’ts Resource Guide

Do

• Visit the listed resources on the cheat sheet to help with your planning.
• Collaborate with American College of Surgeon state chapters, where available, state COT members, and ACS national staff to develop a strategy for approaching state and local legislators to introduce and support STOP THE BLEED® legislative initiatives.
• Evaluate the political environment in the state to identify the best approach to introduce a legislative initiative including best vehicle for the initiative such as legislation, resolution, or executive action, the best legislator to sponsor to carry a bill or resolution, and type of initiative such as kits in public buildings, kits in schools, training requirement, or recognition of STOP THE BLEED®.
• Choose a legislator to sponsor the legislation or resolution that has a personal or professional background that relates to STOP THE BLEED® such as is a physician, first responder, or has a military background.
• Identify other local and statewide organizations that can support advocacy efforts for the legislation or resolution such as state first responder associations, state and local medical societies, state hospital associations, medical colleges, etc. These groups could have staff or contract lobbyists that can assist with outreach to legislators.
• Be flexible in your approach. Circumstances may require a change in strategy such as abandoning legislation that may not have enough support for a resolution that while doesn’t have the force of law does demonstrate the interest of the legislature on an issue.

Don’t

• Attempt to advocate for state or local legislation on your own. The ACS and COT have members, staff, and resources that can support your outreach and efforts to introduce and enact legislative efforts.
• Ignore the unique political and financial environment in your state. Each state is very unique and while our efforts to enact STOP THE BLEED® legislation is a principled effort, having the a sponsor or supports of the “wrong” political party can result in the legislation not receiving consideration by the controlling party in the legislature and thus not moving. The same can be said about the type of ask in the legislation i.e. kits in public buildings and schools or training requirements. Initiatives that rely on taxpayer money or mandate costs on to other groups can be very difficult to enact.
• Reinvent the wheel. See what has worked in other states.
• Beat a dead horse – if one method is really not working, try another tack.