

## **MDSC Legislative Advocacy Task Force Charter**

The MDSC Legislative Advocacy Task Force works with the MDSC Executive Director, management team, and the MDSC membership to advocate for legislation and policies that will help the MDSC achieve its mission.

The activities of the Task Force are carried out in the following manner:

1. The Task Force reviews legislative bills each session and makes a recommendation as to the bills that are of the highest priority for the MDSC to advocate for. Working with the MDSC Executive Director, the Task Force makes a recommendation of a priority bill and support bills to include in the MDSC Legislative Platform. The Executive Director submits these recommendations to the MDSC Board of Directors for approval.
2. Once the Board of Directors has approved the Legislative Platform, the Task Force works closely with the Executive Director, management team and the MDSC membership to advocate for these bills. Advocacy can include the following activities:
  - Informing the MDSC membership about the legislative priorities and how they can help advocate for these bills.
  - Drafting sample letters and advocacy materials for the MDSC membership to use.
  - Providing training opportunities for the MDSC members to gain information and skills on how to advocate for the MDSC Legislative Platform.
  - Developing testimony and participating in hearings to advocate on behalf of the MDSC's Legislative Platform.
  - Organizing and participating in Legislative advocacy activities such as rallies, legislative receptions, advocacy days and meetings with key legislators.

In order for the advocacy activities of the Legislative Advocacy Task Force to be unified and fully representative of the Board approved Legislative Platform, all activities, materials, and communications from the Legislative Advocacy Task Force must be approved by the MDSC Executive Director prior to participation or dissemination.

### **Role of the Legislative Advocacy Task Force Chair**

The MDSC Legislative Advocacy Task Force Chair works with the MDSC Executive Director to:

- 1) Set annual goals and objectives of the Legislative Advocacy Task Force
- 2) Plan agendas and convene meetings for the MDSC Legislative Advocacy Task Force.
- 3) Develop communications to keep the Legislative Advocacy Task Force and MDSC Membership abreast of the progress of the MDSC Legislative Platform

4) Develop and participate in meetings, trainings and advocacy activities to support the MDSC Legislative Platform.