

Lizzy has always loved advocacy. Her background in political science and working on campaigns made her think when she walked into her first PTA meeting and they had an opening for legislative chair, that might be something she could do. It seemed like a minor role. Little did she know, how much advocacy was part of PTA's DNA. Since then, she has only increased her knowledge of what advocacy means in PTA. From attending Legislative Assembly to helping submit issues, resolutions and principles to making the drive to Olympia to meet with legislators on Focus Day, it has only made her more involved with advocacy, not less. While she has held other positions like president and service delivery team member, she has always come back to advocacy. This is her niche and she decided to spread her wings and dip her toe into advocacy chair positions at the council and region levels. She has also served on both the advocacy committee and resolutions committee where she has worked with some amazing advocates.

The most important thing for Lizzy is to educate our members on what advocacy means. Simply put, it means to speak up or for. While some of us are meeting with legislators and testifying, this is not the only thing that advocacy is. What we do locally is the most important thing because it has the greatest impact for our individual PTAs and their members. We want our members to know that they are advocating every day whether they realize it or not when they talk to their child's teacher or work with their principal to plan their PTA year. It is the relationships that they develop with other advocates and the decision makers in their school district, city, and county that are the most important to cultivate.

At the state level, we are fortunate to have strong advocates here too as exemplified by the State Board—both past and present. We also have the assistance of our wonderful legislative consultant to help us navigate the legislative process and our parliamentarian to make sure we are doing everything in accordance to our bylaws and standing rules at Legislative Assembly and Convention. If Lizzy is elected, she may be the person holding the State Advocacy Director position, but she is still learning from all of you. Her role is that of facilitator and supporting our members in using their voices to speak up or for.