

This statement guides Utah Nonprofits Association public policy action at all levels of government and with the public. UNA advocates on behalf of Utah's nonprofit community, protecting the rights and benefits of nonprofit organizations. UNA educates and supports its members in advocacy efforts and provides opportunities for open participation and engagement in nonprofit organization advocacy. UNA unifies, strengthens, and elevates Utah's nonprofit sector through sound public policy.

UNA's public policy work:

1. Promotes a strong nonprofit sector in Utah
2. Expands public awareness of issues that affect Utah nonprofit organizations
3. Increases financial support from the public and private sectors
4. Ensures public policies are inclusive and equitable for Utah's nonprofits
5. Builds relationships and enhances communication with UNA members, community leaders, and the public at large

UNA primarily takes positions on issues that have statewide or regional impacts, are broad-based in nature, and affect Utah's nonprofit community at large. UNA evaluates how legislation impacts its mission and whether or not issues are substantially damaging to one constituent group over another. UNA's position is determined by the UNA public policy committee.

Criteria for determining UNA positions:

1. Does acting on this issue expand public awareness of issues that affect Utah nonprofit organizations?
2. Does this issue affect the interests of Utah's nonprofit community at large in a significant way?
3. Does UNA anticipate there will be general support among its members on the position to be taken?
4. Is UNA perceived as an appropriate advocate for the position to be taken?

UNA public policy procedures:

1. UNA takes action and implements appropriate organizational positions on legislative or other public policy issues which:
 - a. Have statewide application
 - b. Have local or limited application but are determined to have statewide policy significance

- c. Have general relevance to the creation, management, operation, administration, and well-being of nonprofit organizations in the State of Utah
 - d. Are of broad, community-wide importance and are likely to have such a significant impact on the people and causes nonprofits serve that it is appropriate for the voice of the nonprofit sector to be represented
 2. Although UNA does not normally endorse legislative positions or other public policy issues which are limited in scope or application, UNA may act on issues that meet the following criteria:
 - a. Nonprofit organizations have submitted a UNA Application for Endorsement regarding a specific issue, and the UNA public policy committee has approved endorsement.
 - i. Nonprofit organizations will complete an Application for Endorsement detailing the issue at hand and the organization's desire for UNA endorsement.
 - ii. The UNA CEO will notify the applicant of its endorsement or rejection.
 - b. Action is in partnership with another public policy organization, and activity has been approved by the UNA public policy committee.
 3. The UNA public policy committee approves legislation action and endorsement with the right and expectation to take controversial issues that require close scrutiny to the full board of directors for approval as it deems appropriate.
 4. If UNA decides not to take a position on a particular issue, it still provides legislative monitoring and updates to members on the status of the issue.
 5. In cases in which no reasonable consensus lies among UNA members on a significant issue affecting nonprofits, UNA plays a role in providing information to both UNA members and legislators on the various opinions within the sector.
 6. UNA supports its member organizations in their advocacy activities on particular sub-sector issues by providing technical assistance and consultation; training in generic voter engagement; lobbying and advocacy skills; training in lobbying laws and regulations; opportunities for nonprofit organizations to discuss and strategize around issues of significance; and opportunities for nonprofit organizations to discuss issues with their legislators.
 7. UNA public policy positions are consistent with the mission of UNA and with policies adopted by the Board of Directors.

For more information about UNA's public policy work, visit utahnonprofits.org or email info@utahnonprofits.org.

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