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Thank you for your interest in United Spinal Association's **Grassroots Advocacy Network**! I am Annie Streit, the Grassroots Advocacy Manager, and my colleague and Senior Director of Advocacy and Policy, Steve Lieberman, have been working hard to build a strong and united advocacy network.

Grassroots Advocacy Network Registration

The first step at getting involved in our **Grassroots Advocacy Network** is filling out our online **Registration Form**. This is separate from the membership form, and it lets us know that you want to join our nationwide network of registered advocates across the country. Signing up only takes a few moments, and will get you access to our email reminders about upcoming advocacy events, action alerts, and working groups, as well as give you a chance to participate in **Roll on Capitol Hill** and **Virtual Advocacy Day**.

Our goal is to build and expand the number of dedicated advocates in all 435 Congressional Districts across all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The foundation of our **Grassroots Advocacy Network** is on two primary goals: recruiting committed advocates all across the country who will commit to sending United Spinal's Action Alerts to their members of Congress, and having those advocates participate in advocacy activities on behalf of the SCI/D and wheelchair user community, at whatever level they feel comfortable.

So, if you want to take part on the cutting edge of change, you can mobilize with us by adding your name to our **Grassroots Advocacy Network**, by filling out our online **Registration Form**. All are welcome! Along with becoming a registered advocate, there are many ways to get involved and collaborate with other advocates from across the country, which are discussed below.

Advocacy LIVE

On the third Tuesday of every month with alternating times at 1:00 and 5:00PM ET, is our virtual **Advocacy LIVE** event. This is a great opportunity to connect with other United Spinal advocates to discuss advocacy efforts across the country, ask questions, share ideas and resources, and voice concerns and important issues regarding the SCI/D and wheelchair user community. You can pre-register for this event by clicking below.

[Advocacy LIVE at 1:00PM ET](#)

[Advocacy LIVE at 5:00PM ET](#)



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Working Groups

As a registered advocate you have the option to become more involved by joining one or all of our **six working groups**. We need your participation in order to help drive change. If you are interested in joining any of the working groups listed below, you can fill out the online [**Working Group Sign-up Form**](#).

★ Accessible Parking Working Group (meets monthly)

This working group will come together to advocate for improvement in accessible parking and increase awareness and education regarding common barriers to parking encountered by the disability community and accessible parking laws and regulations throughout the United States. The [**Accessible Parking webpage**](#) highlights the work that the members of this working group have done with gathering data to show the need to increase the minimum number of accessible parking spots, and here you can download [**The Complete Guide to Accessible Parking**](#).

★ Outdoor Access Working Group (meets monthly)

This group, aimed at advocates with outdoor access and recreation experience, will come together to advocate against current constraints that hinder the disability community from participating in outdoor activities, while also raising awareness on the importance of inclusivity and equality for access to outdoor recreation.

★ Emergency Preparedness Working Group (meets monthly)

This working group focuses on emergency preparedness for the SCI/D and wheelchair user community after a natural or manmade disaster, in an effort to help better prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. This group corresponds with the [**United Spinal Ready to Roll Emergency Preparedness**](#) program.

★ Care Support Working Group (meets monthly)

This group will focus on the changes that need to be made regarding Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for the disability community and caregivers. It is crucial that individuals needing care support receive person centered and self-directed care so they can live in their own home and community, while also providing support and increased wages for caregivers and for family members to participate in paid caregiver programs.

★ Accessible Transportation Working Group (meets quarterly)

This working group will be collaborating to achieve a clean energy future that is universally designed and accessible to people with disabilities by ensuring that we have equitable access to the existing and emerging technologies that drive the transportation and travel industries. The group will also work to improve access to public spaces, pathways, and infrastructure.

★ Health Access Working Group (meets quarterly)

This working group will advocate for improving access to healthcare services for the disability community. Working group members will collaborate to identify healthcare accessibility problems, key obstacles, and societal barriers that prevent people with disabilities access to the resources to promote and maintain their health. Join this working group to help find possible solutions along with the services and information needed in order for members of the disability community to achieve their best health.



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Meet an Advocate Live Stream

There is also an opportunity to tune in live, once a month, for the Grassroots Advocacy Network **Meet an Advocate Live Stream**. Every month, a United Spinal advocate is selected to be a guest on this live stream to highlight his/her work and accomplishments with SCI/D or wheelchair user advocacy. You can take part in this live conversation by tuning in, asking questions, and sharing comments. Join us live at any of these three locations: [United Spinal Association's Facebook, Advocacy Network Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

You can also watch recordings of past live streams by clicking on ["Advocacy Network Live Streams"](#) under the "Advocacy" tab on the United Spinal website.

Advocacy Facebook Page & Group

Make sure to like and follow the [United Spinal Association Advocacy Network Facebook Page](#) to not only be notified of and view the live streams, but to also keep up-to-date on events, registrations, surveys, advocacy issues, and much more!

You can also join the [United Spinal Association Advocacy Hub Facebook Group](#), which was created as a way for advocates from around the country to share information on what they are working on, issues they are concerned about, and questions they may have on anything regarding advocacy all in one location in order to collaborate and engage with each other!

Advocacy and Working Group Resources

Lastly, please take the opportunity to look through United Spinal's [Advocacy and Working Group Resources](#). Under Advocacy Resources you can find the Grassroots Advocacy Network **Etiquette Guide**, the **State & Local Advocacy Menu**, the **Advocacy Program Guide**, the **Advocacy Curriculum**, and the [Advocacy in Action: A Toolkit for the Rolling Revolution](#). This toolkit will give you tips and tools to help you understand what advocacy is and how to become an effective advocate in your community. Being an advocate is an important step to ensuring that you and those around you have equal access and opportunity. You can download the entire toolkit or specific sections, based on the information you are needing. The [Working Group Resources](#) are various resources created by information, experiences, and resources compiled by members of the working groups. This section will be updated regularly with new resources.

Please visit the [Grassroots Advocacy Network page](#) on the United Spinal Association website for more information and resources. Thank you again for joining this dedicated advocacy network, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Advocacy Team!

Best Regards,

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