

LEGISLATIVE WORK GROUP

The Legislative Work Group studies the current Congressional, State Senate and House legislation to determine those bills which align with the Dignity Alliance mission and goals. To be recommended for endorsement a bill should contribute to one of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts goals.

The Legislative Work Group recommends bills for Dignity Endorsement to the Coordinating Committee and then polls the full list of Dignity Alliance participants for potential endorsement. Participants are also given the opportunity to add their own or their organization's endorsement.

While the majority of endorsements occur at the beginning of each two-year session, a small number come to the attention of the Work Group during the two-year session and may be recommended. In addition, relevant Budget Items are also reviewed and recommended for endorsement.

Dignity Alliance participants and friends are encouraged to refer to the section of the Dignity Alliance web site under the heading "Legislative Endorsement," and to advocate for our endorsed bills by contacting their legislators. Whenever possible, endorsed bills may be accompanied by copies of testimony submitted by Dignity Alliance which can help those contacting their legislators to share the position of our advocacy.

In addition, the Legislative Work Group:

1. Manages the Dignity Awards process for Legislators.
2. Develops and presents information on the legislative process for DignityMA members.
3. Works closely with other DignityMA work groups to advance bills to best serve elders, people with disabilities, and their caregivers.