

## Adopted Terminology for Issues, Bills, and Advocacy Teams

UULM-MD has traditionally identified which “issues” it deems priorities for each Maryland General Assembly Session. These issues have also corresponded to Issue Task Forces created to support the advocacy efforts of these priority issues. We have identified some confusions that this terminology has created, given that a broad “issue” like Climate Change or Criminal Justice may involve several goals, each with multiple bills. In addition, we have found that even some broad “issues” like Health Care may not have a specific advocacy effort on legislation every year (such as when the Affordable Care Act passed at the Federal level, and our efforts shifted to monitoring its implementation in our state). Also, “Task Force” and “Chair” imply a group effort, but most of our advocacy has been spearheaded by one person on each issue, without a collaborative group.

Below is the Task Force Working Group’s recommended terminology to clarify what we mean when talking about our advocacy efforts in a given year. Boldface signifies new terms or understandings. These recommendations were adopted by the Board on July 15, 2021.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Issue Area	Broad grouping of issues related to a subject		Immigration, Climate, Health Care, Gun Violence
Issue	A specific goal sought by legislation	A more narrow focus within an Issue Area	Under Immigration: Dignity Not Detention, Trust Act, Driver privacy, etc.
Bill	A specific piece of legislation introduced to address one or more issues. We prefer to limit to 3 the number of Bills we are actively supporting re: each Issue Area to avoid overwhelming our folks.	Often includes companion bills introduced in the Senate and House; may also include multiple bills aimed at addressing the same issue	In 2021, “Dignity Not Detention” involved companion bills which were amended to include aspects of the two Trust Act bills before passage
Issue Lead (or Co-Leads)	Person who leads UULM-MD advocacy on an Issue Area.	Functions as Chairs of Task Forces previously have, but with additional emphasis on building an Advocacy Team to distribute responsibilities and foster leadership development. The Lead coordinates the Advocacy Team.	Phil Webster, Climate; Candy Clark, Criminal Justice; Chris Hager and Betty Crowley, Healthcare; Jim Caldiero and Tammy Spengler, Immigration; Steve Finner, Medical Aid in Dying.

<b>Advocacy Team</b>	The UULM-MD entity created to support advocacy efforts related to an Issue Area	Works with Lead to plan and execute advocacy efforts, may meet via zoom and/or collaborate via email, phone, text, Facebook Group, and other social media	The Advocacy Team members will follow bills, meet with legislators, write and/or deliver testimony, attend partner or coalition meetings, attend rallies and lobby days, and/or recruit others to attend rallies and lobby days.
<b>Advocates</b>	Members of the Advocacy Team	UULM MD members recruited by the Lead from among those who participate in multiple Targeted Actions, or from congregations mobilized on the issue area. Could also include the lone individual in a congregation concerned about the issue area	See above
UULM MD Members	Anyone who is in our database	Receives emails, hopefully also takes action and contributes financially (e.g. pays dues/attends kickoff).	
Priority Issues	Issues (as defined above) for which UULM-MD will conduct an <b>active advocacy campaign during the current session</b> through an established Advocacy Team	Requires an active Advocacy Team. Team Leads recommend these to the Board for approval before every session for approval. [Issues without an active campaign may be on the “watch” list and monitored during the session.]	Currently: Climate, Criminal Justice, Health Care, Immigration, and maybe Medical Aid in Dying
Priority Bill	Specific bill identified by an Advocacy Team, for either our support or opposition, to advance a specific Priority Issue approved by UULM-MD	Advocacy Team Leads can recommend to the Board new priority bills for action during a session. UULM-MD will include these in its list for tracking.	TBD for 2022

<b>Watch Status for Issue Area</b>	An Issue Area for which UULM-MD is not mounting an advocacy campaign for any of its issues in the current year. UULM-MD may still monitor events re: that Issue Area during the session in case there is need for UULM-MD to act.	A Watch Status Issue Area may or may not have an established Advocacy Team that continues to monitor activities	Economic Justice and Gun Violence will be in this status in 2022 and have no Advocacy Team, so monitoring will be done by the Advocacy Manager.  Health Care may be in this status if it has no Priority Bills, so its active Issue Leads will monitor this Issue Area.
<b>Advocacy Manager</b>	Person (currently a volunteer) who supervises UULM-MD advocacy efforts	Reviews support/sign-on requests, testimonies, targeted action wording and other materials, monitors Bills including for both Priority and Watch Status Issues (see Roles and Responsibilities spreadsheet), communicates with Leads and Ashley	Steve Buckingham for 2022  Note: any recommendation to support or oppose an issue or bill will be referred to the Board or Executive Committee for approval

Adopted by the Board  
July 15, 2021