



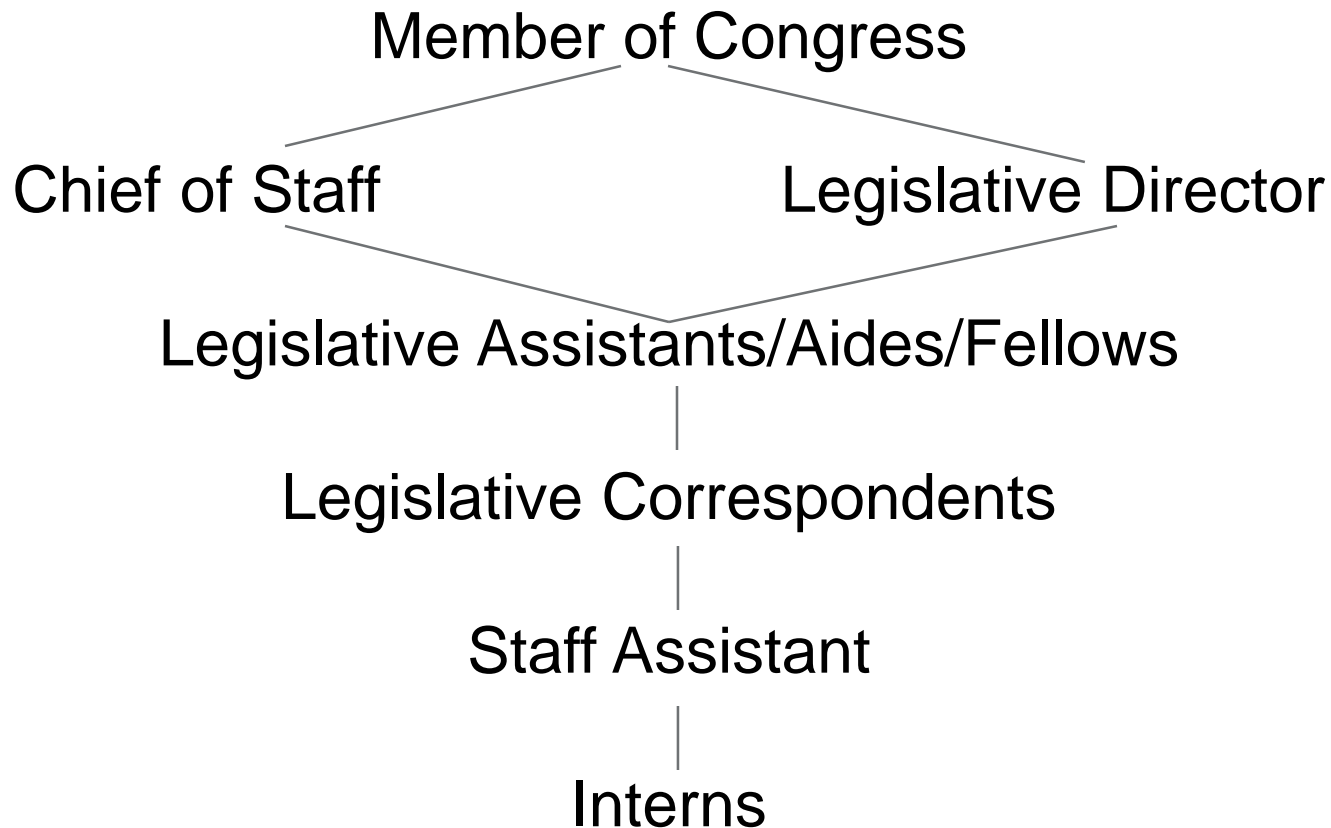
# FIRST Legislative Agenda

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# U.S. Federal Support

## *Every Student Succeeds Act*

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - Signed into law with bipartisan majorities December 10, 2015
  - Title IV, Part A: Well-rounded educational opportunities, including improving student engagement in STEM and supporting the participation of students in STEM non-profit competitions (such as robotics) and hands-on learning opportunities.
    - Structured as block grants to states
    - FY17 Actual Appropriation: Funded at \$400 million
    - Lots of elements included — After-school STEM and robotics are only one piece
    - Need to advocate for states and school districts to include us (*FIRST*, STEM, robotics) in their plans and submissions
    - President's proposal for FY 2018 Federal budget: \$0

**We need to work hard and urgently to capture and retain what we've accomplished !!!!**

# Work is Not Done

- Passage of ESSA is only a start
- Appropriations
  - Passed annually to fund segments of the government
  - FY17 Funding was only at \$400m
  - FIRST has joined the STEMEd Coalition to lobby for full funding



# State Advocacy

- *FIRST* Federal Team is hard at work working with state governments on their implementation plans for ESSA
- Take what you learn from your meetings on Capitol Hill and meet with lawmakers in your state



# U.S. Federal Support

## *Other Key Areas for Concerted Advocacy*

- Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
  - FY17: Funded at same level as previous years
  - FY18: President proposes \$0
- AmeriCorps VISTA Program
  - President's budget calls for elimination of Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS), parent organization of the VISTA Program.
  - *FIRST* benefits from one of the largest nationwide deployments of ~50 VISTA volunteers per year (4<sup>th</sup> year), which is especially helpful to our Diversity & Inclusion activities.
  - President's proposed budget would eliminate the *FIRST* VISTA program.
- Perkins Act / Career and Tech Education
  - *Possible changes to that legislation that would open up support opportunities for teams*

# U.S. National Advocacy

- Advocating for sufficient funding for ESSA Title IV, Part A
- Advocating for continued funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers
- Advocating for continued funding for Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) and the AmeriCorps VISTA program