

WHAT IS PREEMPTION?

Local communities have long been the source of innovative solutions to public health problems. Workers' safety, smokefree ordinances, and other successful social change efforts began with local campaigns and grew into national movements. Increasingly, **local health, safety, and civil rights laws are being undermined using a strategy called preemption.**

The opponents of public health and safety are using higher levels of government to interfere with stronger laws at the local level. Preemption is usually promoted by industry lobbyists to protect their profits.

Preemption is a non-partisan issue. Communities across the nation, regardless of the political views of their residents, want the power to protect health, safety, and the natural environment. They're fighting back against the vested interests that promote federal and state preemption.

The National Institute of Medicine says federal and state policy makers should only "set minimum standards... allowing states and localities to further protect the health and safety of their inhabitants," and "should avoid language that hinders public health action."

“ **Grassroots Change is THE authority on preemption and movement building.** Their website is my go-to resource when I teach about these topics. My students love their materials!”

- Shannon Frattaroli, Associate Professor,
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Your ability to affect change in your community is limited by existing and proposed preemption legislation at the federal and state levels. Grassroots health advocates can leverage information to develop effective and successful strategies to advance policy and social change.

PREEMPTION WATCH

Preemption Watch is designed to help you better understand and counter preemption. We provide tools, research, and case studies to help you develop informed strategies to further your goals. Our bi-weekly newsletter provides timely coverage of threats by state and issue.



Our interactive Preemption Map provides up-to-date information on state preemption.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1 BE PREPARED

Expect preemption to become part of any proposed public health legislation at the federal or state level – even if it's not part of the original bill.

2 KNOW THE OPPOSITION

Understand the motivations and economic interests of the supporters of preemption. Consider what the supporters of preemption want to gain in the long run so you can understand and counter the risk to public health, safety and democracy.

3 WORK WITH ALLIES

Preemption can interfere with the work of local and state health departments and community groups. Make sure that those who will be most impacted by preemption are represented in the decision-making process with state and national lawmakers.

4 KNOW YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Major stakeholders should understand preemption and agree on a firm position before entering the legislative process.

IN THE WORDS OF OUR PARTNERS

“ Grassroots Change’s Preemption Watch project provides up-to-date information about preemption that I can’t find anywhere else. **I consider this one of the most important issues in public health and no other group tracks and informs like Grassroots Change.**”

- Jennifer Pomeranz, Clinical Assistant Professor,
School of Global Health, New York University

“ Grassroots Change has been a valuable partner in providing tools and resources for our organization and network to support our movement, especially in countering preemption at the state level. **We found the Preemption Map so successful** in informing our network, that we republished it to our network leadership.”

- Ellen Bravo, Director,
Family Values @ Work

“ I come to Grassroots Change when I need support in finding the picture of a whole community working together toward change. **This picture has become my North Star that I come back to again and again.**”

- Mary Roscoe, Coordinator,
Bay Area Children in Nature Network

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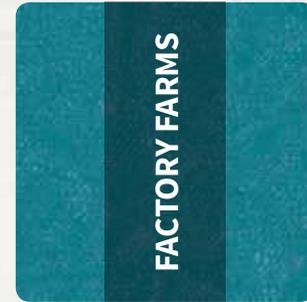
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ABOUT GRASSROOTS CHANGE

Grassroots Change empowers grassroots leaders to build and sustain effective public health movements at the local, state and national levels. We provide services, tools, and resources for grassroots advocates working on diverse public health and safety issues.

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Protecting Local Control



A project of:
Grassroots Change
connecting for better health