

Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Washington D.C.

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The townspeople saved Bailey's Savings and Loan (in the movie "It's A Wonderful Life") because of what George Bailey did to help others. Extension should be looked at similarly. Our story is not politics it's people.

This is my take-away from my experience with PILD in Washington D.C. (along with seeing the Cherry Blossoms for the first time and being in the Capitol building when the man landed his ultra-light plane on the lawn).

What we do in Extension affects the lives of individuals who are appreciative of our efforts. I witnessed this as I watched the volunteers, who accompanied us to D.C., speak to our Congressmen and women. They spoke with passion and conviction that what we do is vital to the health, wellbeing, and economy of our communities. What we do as agents changes lives for the better and deserves continued funding from Washington.

I learned the difference between Lobbying and Advocacy. This helped me as university employee stay within the law while promoting Extension. The information was presented by a doctoral student from Virginia Polytechnic & State University. Here is a link to his [flow chart](#). It is very simple and helpful.

Agents, staff, and volunteers from across our nation came together to help each other stand strong to advocate for continued funding of Extension. Some state Extension programs are small. As a larger state program, it felt good to come along-side them to advocate for funding. Something they could not have accomplished alone. Actually, we all need each other to "save" Extension like the townspeople "saved" Bailey's Savings and Loan. If you get the chance, go to PILD. See for yourself people pulling together for the good of all.