

Senior Vice President of Advocacy

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Location: Columbus, Ohio (regular presence at the Statehouse and statewide engagement)

Status: Full-Time | Exempt

Executive Context: Why This Role, Why Now

The Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) has entered a new chapter under new executive leadership. With a new CEO in place, the Association is setting a fresh vision and renewed commitment to bold, collaborative advocacy that delivers meaningful results for members and strengthens the long-term viability of the industry.

At the same time, Ohio stands on the threshold of a new administration and General Assembly, creating a pivotal window to shape policy priorities and reassert the industry's voice in an evolving political and regulatory landscape. OHCA sees this moment as an opportunity—not merely to engage—but to lead, elevate its influence, and ensure the industry is well-positioned for the years ahead.

To support this vision, OHCA is seeking a **Senior Vice President of Advocacy (SVP-Advocacy)** to serve as its senior-most government relations executive and strategic partner to the CEO.

Opportunity Overview

The Senior Vice President of Advocacy is a career-defining leadership opportunity for a seasoned government relations professional who brings executive presence, political maturity, and a reputation for ethical, relationship-driven advocacy.

Reporting directly to the CEO, this role leads government relations strategy for OHCA, works in collaboration and partnership with the Association's policy team, and serves as a key member of the Association's senior leadership team. The SVP will act as OHCA's principal policy representative to the Ohio General Assembly, state agencies, and administration officials, while working closely with Board leadership and internal and external policy experts to advance a forward-looking public policy agenda.

OHCA is seeking a statesperson-level advocacy leader—someone trusted by policymakers, respected by peers, and skilled at operating in complex, high-visibility environments. While experience in health care or long-term care is helpful, it is not required; core advocacy skills, leadership capability, judgment, and relational strength are paramount.

This role offers:

- Direct access to and partnership with the CEO
- Enterprise-level responsibility for government relations and political engagement
- High visibility with Board leadership and external stakeholders
- A platform to shape long-term policy outcomes and elevate an influential statewide association

Compensation is competitive at the senior executive level for the Columbus, Ohio market and commensurate with experience.

About OHCA

The Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) is the state's leading trade association representing skilled nursing facilities and other long-term care providers. OHCA advocates for thoughtful, balanced public policies that support high-quality care, regulatory clarity, and a sustainable long-term care system through constructive engagement with policymakers and regulators.

Position Summary

The Senior Vice President of Advocacy serves as OHCA's senior-most leader for government relations and political engagement. Reporting to the CEO, this role provides strategic direction, executive leadership, and day-to-day oversight of all government relations activities.

This is a high-trust, high-impact role requiring strong judgment, credibility, and the ability to balance near-term advocacy needs with long-term institutional positioning. The successful candidate will be a collaborative leader who values integrity, professionalism, and durable relationships as the foundation of effective advocacy.

Core Responsibilities

Strategic Advocacy Leadership

- Serve as OHCA's primary internal lobbyist and senior advocacy representative before the Ohio General Assembly, the Governor's Office and state agencies
- Lead the development and execution of OHCA's comprehensive government relations strategy, in concert with the Association's policy leadership
- Partner closely with the CEO on political strategy, legislative priorities, and policy positioning
- Lead the Association's advocacy portfolio as it elevates its role as a health care policy leader and business champion in Ohio
- Advise Board leadership on legislative developments, policy trends, and advocacy strategy

Government & Policymaker Engagement

- Build and sustain productive relationships with legislators, legislative leadership, staff, regulators, and administration officials
- Maintain a visible, credible presence in policy discussions, hearings, and stakeholder forums
- Represent OHCA in high-stakes or sensitive policy engagements with professionalism and discretion
- Engage across parties and regions with a constructive, solutions-oriented approach

Organizational Leadership & Collaboration

- Lead and oversee the Association's government relations function, establishing clear priorities and accountability
- Work closely with policy leaders, legal counsel, and subject-matter experts to translate policy into effective advocacy
- Collaborate with communications and membership teams to ensure alignment between advocacy, messaging, and member engagement
- Support Board and committee engagement with clear analysis, timely updates, and strategic insight

Coalition & External Partnerships

- Serve as OHCA's senior representative in coalitions and multi-stakeholder initiatives
- Coordinate effectively with allied associations and external advocacy partners
- Ensure OHCA's advocacy efforts reinforce its reputation as a credible, professional, and collaborative policy partner

Policy Oversight & Intelligence

- Oversee legislative and regulatory monitoring affecting OHCA members
- Distill complex policy developments into concise, actionable insights for leadership and members
- Anticipate emerging policy trends and help position OHCA proactively

Leadership Profile

The ideal candidate will be known for:

- Integrity and ethical leadership
- Executive presence and credibility with senior policymakers and board leaders
- Relationship acumen and political maturity
- Operational excellence in leading sophisticated advocacy efforts
- Strategic perspective and long-term orientation

Qualifications

Required

- Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree preferred (JD, MPA, MPH, or similar)
- 12-15+ years of experience in government relations, legislative advocacy, or public policy
- Proven success in a senior advocacy or chief lobbyist role within a trade association, membership organization, regulated industry, or comparable setting
- Strong understanding of legislative and regulatory processes
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Preferred

- Experience working with a board-governed organization
- Health care or other regulated industry experience (helpful but not required)
- Track record of leadership in complex stakeholder environments

Expressions of Interest

For confidential consideration, candidates who meet the above qualifications should send their resume, cover letter, and salary expectations to HR@ohca.org. The application process will remain open until the position is filled.