The Role(s) of the Authorizer in Policy:

*Different ways authorizers can contribute to coalitions*

1. **Technical Content Expert**
   
   Hallmarks of this role:
   
   - You are asked your opinion on policy proposals.
   - You are asked to provide observations on the effectiveness of previous policies/legislation.
   - You are asked to provide or conduct research.

   Types of activities this role entails:
   
   - Interpreting proposed or existing statute or rules, especially on the ground implementation.
   - Tracking on the ground implementation - what is working and what isn’t and sharing that information.
   - Provide analysis of the impacts of a certain policy, bill, or rule.

2. **Representative of Your Organization**
   
   Hallmarks of this role:
   
   - You have authority from your organization to speak on their behalf.
     - Generally there is still a process for organization approval/buy in.
   - You are asked your organization’s opinion on proposed bills.
   - You are asked to provide observations on the effectiveness of previous policies/legislation.
   - You are asked to speak to the impact on your organizations activities and, sometimes, your charter schools.

   Types of activities this role entails:
   
   - Preparing analysis and information for your board.
   - Taking positions on legislation or proposed regulations.
   - Submitting comments, letters or testimony on behalf of your organization.
   - Signing on to coalition/other letters.
   - Maintaining relationships with local legislators.
   - Communicating with local legislators on the priorities of your organization - policy, implementation, etc.

3. **Advocate for Authorizing Policies**
   
   Hallmarks of this role:
   
   - You proactively get involved in legislation and/or rulemaking - comment, sponsor, amend.
   - Work with other authorizers in your state or community or country.
   - Coalitions of stakeholders in the charter school/authorizer community.
   - Public - op-eds, blogs, press statements, etc.

   Types of activities this role entails:
   
   - Bring legislative solutions to the legislature.
   - Annual or regular events with legislators.
   - Comment and advocate on bills, legislative proposals, etc.
   - Work with coalitions to broaden the reach/impact of the advocacy activities.
   - Regularly inform local legislators and influential legislators of your position.