

Tips for Writing to Your Legislators



Writing to your legislators is one of the best ways to support early childhood as a priority in Minnesota. Thank you for making time to be an advocate for Minnesota's youngest learners. Below are a few things to remember for your letters or emails.

Tell your story! Speak from your own experience. Talk about ways early learning programs have positively impacted you, your community, or the families you serve.

You don't have to be an expert. Legislators are not experts on every issue and you don't need to be either. Give a few clear reasons why you support early childhood development initiatives and clearly list which bill(s) you support or oppose.

IN THE LETTER OR EMAIL

1. Focus on Your Representatives

- Legislators will be more receptive to their constituents versus people who do not live in their district.
- You can find your representatives at www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/
- Click on 'Contact' next to the member and it will provide their email & office address.
- Look to see where the legislator prefers interim mail when the legislature is out of session.

2. Personalize Your Message

- Introduce yourself and state that you are a constituent.
- If representing an organization include its name, location and membership size.
- Express your connection to early childhood programs and highlight personal experience that show case their positive impact on you, your community, or families you serve.

3. Keep it Simple and Clear

- State clearly which bill(s) you support or oppose in your subject line & body.
- Include relevant facts and statistics to emphasize the importance of early childhood initiatives, specifically how they benefit the district.
- Attach any relevant documents that supports your claims.
- Use straightforward language and avoid jargon to ensure your message is easily understood by staff & the legislator.
- Avoid copy & pasted emails that may be sent en masse to legislators.

4. Express Gratitude

- Thank the legislator for their time and consideration.
- Mention that you are open to talking more over a phone call or meeting.

