

TIPS FOR CONNECTING WITH LEGISLATORS



Thank you for making time to be an advocate! Your voice is a powerful tool in making an impact at the legislature and in your community.

You don't have to be an expert. Legislators are not experts on every issue, and you don't need to be either.

Tell your story! Speak from your own experience. Talk about ways the topic has impacted you, or your community.

You don't have to do it alone. On the next page are a few helpful tips to guide your conversations and your letters and emails.

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IN A MEETING

Introduce Yourself

Introduce yourself with your name, where you're from, and that you live or work in their district. If you're with an organization, include its name, location, and membership size.

Make Connections

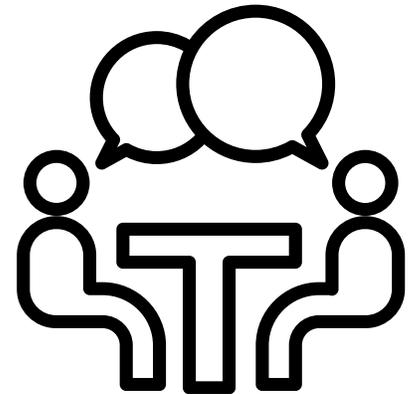
Clearly state the issue, your position, and the action you're asking the legislator to take. Use stories and relevant facts to make your message memorable and how the issue affects their district.

Bring Information to leave with the Legislator

Consider leaving behind a simple handout, or fact sheet. These materials help reinforce your message and give the legislator something to refer back to after your meeting.

Thank Them for Their Time

Thank the legislator for their time and send a thank-you note after your meeting.



IN A LETTER

Focus on Your Representatives

Focus on the legislators who represent your area, as they're most likely to listen to the people who live in their district. Be sure to check where they prefer to receive mail.

Personalize Your Message

Introduce yourself and mention that you live in their district. Share a personal story that shows why the issue matters to you or your community.

Keep it Simple and Clear

Be clear about which bill(s) you support or have concerns about, and include facts or documents to support your message. Use plain language, and avoid jargon to ensure your message is personal and easy to understand.

Express Gratitude

Thank the legislator for their time and consideration. Let them know you're open to continuing the conversation by phone or in a future meeting.

