

Letting Your Voice be Heard: Lobbying Do's and Don'ts

Do:

- Be Prepared
- Introduce yourself and let them know what qualifies you as a constituent
- Share personal stories that connect with the issue you are discussing
- Leave them with resources containing facts about the impact or importance of the issue you are there to discuss
- Be TRUTHFUL. You want to gain respect from the legislator.
- Relate the issue to the specific district of the legislator.
- Show knowledge of both sides of the issue.
- Admit if you don't know the answer. Respond that you will get back to the legislator with accurate information
- Show interest in getting to know the legislator's staff.
- Follow up the visit with a thank you note, email, or call.
- Request a small group meeting. Having 3-4 others present gives the opportunity to deliver a succinct message to the legislator that includes a case statement, a personal story, a closing with a direct ask, and a thank you.

Don't:

- Be afraid to ask specific questions
- Forget to leave time and space for your legislator to be engaged in the conversation and provide feedback
- Get discouraged if your meeting time changes or you end up meeting with legislative staff instead. You should still deliver your message to the individual representing the legislator you were scheduled to meet.
- Overload the legislator with too much information. The general rule of thumb- one visit, one issue.
- Let the conversation get sidetracked from the point. Keep everyone on topic.
- Assume they know the issue you are talking about. Give them ALL the information, even if it seems redundant.
- Leave without learning where the legislator stands on your issue