



Visiting Your Legislators: Suggested Activities and Tips

- Call for an appointment.
- Legislators are busy, so arrive on time.
- Be prepared, have a plan.
- Tell your own story.
- Identify yourself and your organization as an expert.
- Be factual: be ready to support it with two or three salient, well documented facts.
- Jargon is a barrier to communication -- don't use shorthand terms or acronyms.
- Keep your message brief.
- Always leave a one-page fact sheet, with a picture.
- Never guess...if you don't know the answer to the question the legislator asks, it's ok to say so.
- Don't forget to tell the legislator what you want.
- Never get angry...Legislators, like everyone, will most likely get defensive if they feel under attack.
- Remember, the state has limited resources. This creates competition between worthy causes. Essentially, if you choose to sit on the sidelines and be a spectator don't think for one minute that others are joining you on the bench.
- Be Reasonable. Always ask for something within the bounds of the legislature's ability. It usually takes more than one session to gain 100 percent success on any issue.
- Always follow up by close of business the following day; Remember, hand-written thank you notes are the best.