



## Advice for Calling Your Legislator

- Most likely, you'll speak only with the staffer who will relay the message to your elected official. This is perfectly normal.
- Make clear your relationship to the legislator. Let the staffer know that you are a constituent or community member. If you are calling a member of leadership that doesn't represent your home address, acknowledge that legislator's important role in the process.
- Keep it simple. Staff receive a high volume of phone calls every day, so clearly state your name, what action you want the lawmaker to take, and why.
- Know your facts. Have the basic information about the bill in front of you when you call, be able to name and describe the bill and your opinion on what your legislator should do.
- Don't dread the "unanswerable question." Some new advocates worry that they will be asked a question they don't know how to answer. Staffers typically focus on recording the message, rather than asking for intricate details. However, if they do ask a question that you don't know the answer to, tell them you'll find out and call back. Just remember to follow up with the information!
- Be courteous and respectful. Thank staffers for their time.

*Special thanks to the staff of Tell Them for sharing their advocacy best practices with us.*

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