



Tips for Lobbying Your Lawmakers

- **Pick up the phone.** Call the office of your elected official. Say you are a concerned constituent – plus a member of any relevant local groups, such as the CFI in your area – and that you would like to schedule a meeting with his or her office regarding the issue in question (general introductions, concerns on a bill, etc.).
- **Include others.** It helps to present a broader, unified front -- especially if you can find people representing different backgrounds. Consider inviting 2-3 others to join you (just make sure to inform the office they're coming, too).
- **Prepare.** Research the official's voting record, proposed bills, and even personal details such as schooling, family, and interests.
- **Make a folder.** You want to leave something behind for the aide to read. Include some printouts, a flyer, your business card, etc.
- **Arrive early.** Aides have tight schedules. Show up at least 5-10 minutes early. Use the spare time to go over the points you want to make.
- **Take the floor.** Be friendly and polite, introduce yourself, the organizations with which you volunteer or work, and then take 5-10 minutes to explain why you wanted to have the meeting (i.e., share your views and concerns on X issues).
- **Close with a pitch.** Make a realistic and pragmatic request: from considering your views at the next vote, to speaking out on an issue, or proposing a bill.

- **Stay calm!** The legislative aide will have questions. Be prepared, remain patient and polite, and stick to your points. This is not a debate: you want to form a positive relationship with this office.
- **Admit when you don't know something.** Just say you will follow up, don't make up answers to questions that might stump you.
- **Keep in touch.** Ask for a business card when you leave and follow up in 1-2 days. Don't be a stranger! But also, don't be a pest.