
Tips for Phoning Your Legislator

Telephone calls to state legislators' offices are often taken by a staff member.

Be courteous.

Identify yourself.

- State your name and the organization that you represent or the town where you live.
- Ask to speak to the legislator or to the aide who handles the issue you would like to comment on.
- If he or she isn't available, leave a message.
- Take down the name and title of whomever you speak with and ask that the legislator send you a written response.
- Treat aides and staffers with kindness and respect as they can become your most influential liaisons between you and your legislator.

State your position.

- For example, say, "I am calling to support/oppose HB_____/SB _____."
- Ask about the legislator's position on the issue.
- Tell your legislator what effect you think a particular issue or bill, if it becomes law, will have on you, your children, business, or community.
- Back up your opinions with supporting facts. Facts make an argument more tangible and convincing.
- Elaborate on only one or two points. Too much information may confuse your message
- Suggest a course of action and offer assistance.
- Don't assume that your legislator is already an expert on the issue. Be prepared to educate him or her, using local or personal examples in your explanation.
- If you are asked to supply information about the issue, do so as soon as possible.

Be courteous. Thank the person who took your phone call for his or her time and consideration.

The advice on this document has been copied and/or adapted from:

National League Nursing

<http://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/advocacy-public-policy/building-relationships-with-your-legislators-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

and the America Academy of Family Physicians legislative action center the AAFP's legislative action center (www.aafp.org/)*

Florida Senate Website: <https://www.flsenate.gov/About/EffectiveCommunication>