



Tips for Lobbying your Legislator

If you have a pre-set appointment with your legislator(s):

- ◆ Be on time for your appointment(s).
- ◆ If you are part of a group, choose a spokesperson
- ◆ Know your issue (review any talking points prior to the meeting).
- ◆ Relate how the issue affects you and the community that the legislator represents. *Make it personal.*
- ◆ Be knowledgeable about the opposing arguments and be prepared to respond.
- ◆ Make a specific request of the legislator – ask them to vote for (or against) your issue.
- ◆ Follow-up with a note thanking the legislator for his/her time and support. If the legislator disagrees with you or is undecided, tell him/her that you hope they will reconsider their position.

If you do not have an appointment with your legislator(s):

- ◆ Stop by the legislator's office and make an attempt to speak with him or her. If you are unable to speak with the legislator, leave information about your issue and a personal note asking for his/her support.
- ◆ Follow-up with a phone call asking if the legislator has any questions about the material you left.
- ◆ Be visible in and around the buildings during the day.

Always

- ◆ Address legislators properly by using their title (Senator or Representative).
- ◆ Be brief and to the point.
- ◆ Be sure to explain your connection to the issue and to the legislator's district.
- ◆ Thank a legislator for his/her time and follow-up with letters of support from you and others in the district.
- ◆ Provide follow-up information to the NCMS Government Affairs department so the lobbying staff can communicate effectively with legislators.

Never

- ◆ Speak to a legislator in a rude or threatening manner.
- ◆ Make vague statements that cannot be supported by facts.
- ◆ Begin on a righteous note like “As a citizen and a taxpayer ...”
- ◆ Respond to negative comments with a hostile or defensive attitude.