

General Advocacy Tips

The following are some tips that apply generally to any type of legislative communication.

- Seek action at the earliest stage possible.
- Don't assume legislative support; restate your position on every issue.
- Ask legislators to work on behalf of your position.
- Present accurate facts and good arguments.
- Communicate your viewpoint concisely and intelligently.
- Show how you, your family and your community will be affected.
- Request specific, direct action.
- Be friendly; and don't just contact legislators when you want their vote.
- Make appointments to see the legislator and staff when they are in your area of the state.
- Don't promise more than you can deliver.
- Be positive; don't use threats; suggest rather than demand; be constructive.
- Offer to provide follow-up information or assist in helping the legislator gain more knowledge on the issue(s).
- Don't pester; don't become a constant pen pal; don't become a nuisance.
- Don't surprise the lawmaker.
- Give credit when it's due.
- Write a thank-you letter — no matter what action the elected official took. The fact that you were heard is an important accomplishment.