

# Top Tips for Working with Legislators

## Be helpful

- Legislators do not have staff. If they ask you for information, be sure to get it to them.
- Ask legislators what they need to help you achieve your goals.

## Call ahead

- If you are going to the state house, let your legislators know. Don't expect them to drop everything they are doing to talk with you.

## Be Prepared

- Legislators are busy! Make sure you know what you want to say before you go to the meeting.
- Practice staying calm and respectful before your meeting, too.

## Stay on Message

- Legislators can be distracted! It is your job to keep the meeting on track. Practice your pivots.

### **PIVOTS:**

- I see your point. The way I look at it is...
- That's a good question. (pause) Here's how I think about this issue...
- The important thing to remember is...

## Talk about other things sometimes

- When you are not having a meeting with your legislator, talk about other things. Be friendly. Find out what they are interested in.

## Learn the process

- It helps if you are talking to a legislator at a time when it will make a difference for them. If you are too early or too late, you will be less effective.

## Be respectful

- Legislators have many constituents and many people who want to talk to them. Be respectful of their time and be considerate of others.



## Say thank you

- Legislators work hard! You may not agree with them but they are still working long hours and learning many new things. People rarely thank them for this work. Be sure that you do, and you will stand out.

