



How to Educate, Influence and Connect with Legislators

- 📦 Invite them to join you in a parent group
- 📦 Invite them to visit you at your home
- 📦 Add them to a mailing list for newsletters
- 📦 Make regular phone contacts to them
- 📦 Invite them to speak/listen at a parent meeting
- 📦 Ask to meet them for coffee
- 📦 Call to congratulate them on election
- 📦 Call to thank them for their vote
- 📦 Offer to work for their campaign
- 📦 Invite them to meet your family and share your concerns
- 📦 Educate them on the needs of your family member
- 📦 Attend Hearings
- 📦 Ask to meet with them and take your family member with you
- 📦 Send thank you notes!





Ideas on How to Speak On Behalf of Children

1. Get Informed:

Find out what bills and/or issues affect you and your family/

- 👉 Read your Newspaper.
- 👉 Get a copy of the bill.
- 👉 Ask the legislator to keep you informed on the issue in which you are interested.
- 👉 Check your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.
- 👉 Attend meetings to help get informed on different issues.

2. Letter Writing:

Write a letter to your legislator to ask for his/her support.

- 👉 Address your legislator properly.
- 👉 Send all state issue to State officials. Send all federal issues to US. Representatives- if unsure call your district representative's office.
- 👉 Write legibly.
- 👉 Make your letter brief and to the point.
- 👉 Identify yourself, and the purpose of your letter.
- 👉 Write in a courteous manner.
- 👉 Include pertinent information in your letter.
- 👉 If you are writing regarding a bill, state the bill's number and title.

3. Telephone Calls:

Call your legislator to ask for his/her support regarding a child's issue which concerns you.

- 👉 If the legislator is not available ask to speak with his/her staff member that handles children's issues.
- 👉 Be well prepared, brief and courteous.





The
Power
is 
Yours

E-Advocacy

E-Advocacy can be used quickly and inexpensively as a way to supplement other advocacy efforts.

Here are some general tips to help and some resources to find more detailed information.

E-mail

- E-mail is the fastest and simplest way to deliver your message to an elected official. It is very easy to find out how to contact a member of congress on the web. With most sites you can e-mail a member directly from his or her web page. Simply type in your message, sign your name and address, and send it off. The U.S. Senate website is www.senate.gov and the website of the House of Representatives is www.house.gov.

- www.capwiz.com allows you to enter your zip code to locate your Members of Congress. Store the email addresses and web sites in your files

- <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php> is your one stop shop when it comes to E-Advocacy. This site will allow you to type in your address and it will tell you where to vote and who represents you in your town, up in Boston and in Washington, D.C.

E-Mail Tips

- In communicating your message to elected officials and the public, be clear what you are asking for. Make your messages brief and to the point. Explain why the issue is important

- Personalize, personalize, personalize! The more personal your message, the more compelling it is. Always include your own story or experience.

- Keep it short.

- Do a little research

E-Mail Sites of Interest

- www.policynetwork.org is a policy forum that allows the public to post comment on impending policy decisions and are frequented by policymakers and their staff.

- www.ivillage.com/boards (See In the News, Politics Today, and Feminism today boards)

- www.cwla.org Child Welfare League of America

- www.childrensdefense.org Children's Defense Fund

- www.wheredoivotema.com will tell you who your local, state and federal elected officials are, how to contact them and where to vote.