

Tips for Effective Conversations with Policy Makers

Be Strategic	Legislators run on a tight schedule, even when working remotely. Meet with your group ten minutes before the meeting to discuss roles and plan of action. <i>Be on time and be patient.</i>
Tell Your Story	Make it personal. If you have a personal or professional story that ties into what you're discussing, use it to illustrate the importance of the topic at hand. <i>Narratives are powerful tools to convey impact and illustrate beyond the facts and statistics.</i>
Keep it Short and Focused	Be clear on why you are meeting with the legislator and what you are asking for. <i>Stress what is important and what THEY can do for YOU.</i>
Be Prepared for Challenging Questions	Sometimes policymakers and their staff ask questions you may not know the answers to and that's okay. <i>Simply say, "I'm not sure, but I can follow up with someone who has an answer for you."</i>
Take Notes	Designate someone in your group to take notes. <i>Include; attendance (i.e. who was in the room), questions, and commitments.</i>
Thank Everyone	Policy makers and their staff meet with hundreds of people a week. It is important to make a good impression. <i>Recognize everyone in the room and thank them for their time.</i>
You're the Expert	Remember that you are the expert in the room. <i>Speak with confidence and authority.</i>