



WOCN® SOCIETY

PUBLIC POLICY
& ADVOCACY

Communicating Effectively:

Depending on the urgency of the situation there are three primary methods of communication: emails, phone calls, and social media outlets. Email is the preferred method of communication but there may be a time when placing a phone call is important. Using social media outlets such as Twitter is becoming a very effect tool for influencing members. Here are some tips for effectively developing communications methods to contact your legislators:

Telephone Calls to an Office: Phone calls are effective in delivering information quickly and directly, especially on days of key votes.

- State your position and ask what position the elected official is taking.
- Be prepared to explain how the issue will affect your practice and the legislator's constituents.

Calling the Congressional District Office.

- While the District staff may be less influential in terms of legislation compared to the D.C. staff, they are more accessible to constituents.
- Establishing a good relationship with the District Director is a very effective way to influence policy because the District office staff is responsible for constituent services.

Calling the Congressional Washington, D.C. Office.

- When you call the Washington, D.C. office, ask to speak with the health legislative aide.
- Remind the aide that you are a constituent and how many people your practice/facility serves in the state
- Try to develop a dialogue that will allow you to call back in the future. Encourage your congressional staff contact to call you as a resource for information.