



## **American Nurses Association Massachusetts**

### ***Basic Tips to Effect Legislative Change:***

- 1) Know who your legislators are – State Senator, State Representative(s), meet them and be in contact with them often on issues that you care about.**

-The familiar is best. Former Congressional Speaker of the House Tip O’Neal named his book “All Politics are Local”, because it starts with local and personal relationships.

- 2) Legislators like to hear from (and listen more to) the people in their own Districts.**

- You are the constituents who live in their community.

- Your voice really does have a greater impact with the Legislator(s) than anyone who is not from their District, (i.e.: the cities and/or towns that they represent).

- 3) Know about your issue and have a persuasive message, (effective and achievable solution), to the issue. Be polite and non-argumentative as you discuss your position.**

American Nurses Association Massachusetts is a great organization to shed some light here, especially when potential (and current) legislation in health care is discussed thoroughly beforehand by the ANA Massachusetts Health Care Policy Committee. Use the information that the Health Care Policy Committee can provide to you, to assist your discussion with your legislator(s).