

Advocacy Dos and Don'ts
Helpful advice when speaking with legislators

Do

1. Do be TRUTHFUL. You want to gain respect from the legislator.
2. Do relate the issue to the specific district of the legislator.
3. Do show knowledge of both sides of the issue.
4. Do admit if you do not know the answer. Respond that you will get back with the legislator when you get back and get the accurate information.
5. Do show interest in getting to know the legislator's staff.
6. Do follow up the visit with a thank you note, email or phone call.

Don't

1. Don't LIE.
2. Don't be disrespectful to the legislator that does not agree with your position.
3. Don't argue with any legislator.
4. Don't overload the legislator with too much information. General rule of thumb-one visit, one issue.
5. Don't let the conversation get sidetracked from the point. Keep everyone on topic.
6. Don't assume they know the issue you are talking about. Give them ALL the information, even if it seems redundant.