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## "DOs" and "DON'Ts" of Effective Advocacy

### DOs

- Learn the basics about the legislator before contacting them.
- Identify yourself and your cause every time you make contact.  
*\*Legislators meet hundreds of people and they can't remember everyone.*
- Know the status of the legislation and refer to it by bill number.
- Be brief (<10min). Legislators are very busy.
- Be honest and authentic.
- Do admit you don't know and offer to try to find out the answer and send information back to the office.
- Ask the legislator for support.
- Share your contact information so the legislator may follow-up

### DON'Ts

- Don't just speak, listen.
- Don't be argumentative or put the legislator on the defensive.
- Don't expect legislators to be specialists. *\*Their schedules and workloads tend to make them generalists.*
- Don't use jargon or acronyms.
- Don't be put off by long-winded answers. Bring the legislator back to the point.
- Don't make promises you can't deliver.
- Don't shy away from meetings with legislators with known views opposite your own.
- Don't take anything personally or burn bridges
- Don't be offended if a legislator is unable to meet and requests that you meet with staff.
- Don't use form letters or say the exact same things as others.