

# How to Talk

So Your Legislators Will Listen

It only takes a couple of dozen phone calls, emails or other contact from constituents to get an issue on your legislator's radar, and ideally on his/her agenda.

## Do Your Research

Know your representatives. Learn about your legislator's background and positions

<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

- Who is your rep?
- Sign up for their emails.
- Visit their websites.

## Meet in Person

- Attend a Town Hall or Forum. Submit a question in advance. Stand up to talk.
- Visit your legislators at the Capitol with an appointment
- Make a virtual visit, Visit staff or Rep. in their office at home

## Use Fast Action

- Use ZontaUSA quick action FAST ACTION FRIDAY.
- [www.votervoice.net/zonta/home](http://www.votervoice.net/zonta/home)
- Find your topic and send a message.
- Edit it to add your personal message for more impact – Share with friends

## Write a Letter

Pen and paper are very effective. Postcard or letter. Use sample letters from Fast Action or other sources, use your own words. Encourage others to write. Bring postcards and a message to crib to meetings.

## Make a Call

Pick up the phone and call your legislators office. Talk to a staffer, or leave a message. State the issue, Bill number, and what you want them to do – yes or no, pro or con. Keep it simple they make a tally. (202) 224-3121

## Tips

- Be brief. Legislators want to know what you think. Write just a paragraph or two and keep phone messages short, making clear Support / Don't support, Pro / Con.
- Mention a bill number if there is one. Clearly, and repeat.
- Tell why this is personal to you. Include a short "story" of relevance or lived experience
- Be firm but courteous. Find something to praise. Positive relations go a long way.



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