

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU VISIT A LEGISLATOR?

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN



CREATE AN ELEVATOR SPEECH!

An Elevator Speech is a short conversation to introduce yourself, tell the elected official what you want him/her to do, make an "ask", and say "Thank you."



1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

"Hi, I am...I live in your district. I live at ... and work for...(if that is relevant.)"



2. TELL HIM/HER WHY YOU ARE THERE

"I am here today as part of Child Advocacy Day. I am very concerned about... because..."

3. MAKE YOUR "ASK"

"I think it is very important that you vote for/against (use the hot topic talking points here if you do not have a specific bill you want them to support or oppose)... **Can I count on you to do that?**"

4. SAY THANK YOU!

If he/she says that you can count on them, say "Thank you very much."

If they say "No", ask what their concerns are. Answer questions if you are able. (It is always OK to say "I don't know." Then say "Thanks for your time. I really appreciate meeting you.")

TEN STEPS FOR MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

These are helpful suggestions. Even if you don't have an appointment, use them today and in the future.



1. PLAN YOUR VISIT.

What do you want to achieve? Who is the best spokesperson?

2. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Phone and email information can be found at www.house.mo.gov and www.senate.mo.gov.

3. BE PROMPT, PATIENT AND PERSISTENT.

4. PRACTICE YOUR ELEVATOR SPEECH BEFORE YOU VISIT (see the back of this page for helpful hints).

5. INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

6. TELL THE OFFICIAL WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THE ISSUE.

7. BE HONEST AND RESPECTFUL.

8. MAKE THE ASK. TELL THEM WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO.

9. LEAVE THE "TAKE AWAY" YOU RECEIVED IN YOUR PACKET, AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WANT THEM TO HAVE.

10. SAY "THANK YOU" AND FOLLOW UP WITH A NOTE OR EMAIL..

WHAT IF MY LEGISLATOR IS NOT IN THE OFFICE?

1. Be polite to the receptionist. Greet him/her. Be friendly. Be very friendly.

1. Tell the receptionist you are a constituent (if you are!)

1. If the legislator is NOT in the office, ask where he/she is.

If he/she is on the House or Senate floor, you can go to the third floor, where the doors to the House and Senate chambers are located. There will be a doorman. Give him a slip of paper with your name on it, and ask him to give it to your Senator/Representative. They will usually come out and talk to you for a few minutes. HAVE YOUR ELEVATOR SPEECH PREPARED!

If they are in a Committee meeting, you probably will not be able to see them. If this is true then...

4. Tell the receptionist why you are there (Child Advocacy Day). Give them the take-away information from your packet.

5. Sign the guest book and ask to be placed on the legislator's mailing list, if you are not already on it.

6. When you get home, send an email to the elected official saying you were there and are sorry to have missed them. Make you "ask" and request that they let you know if you can count on them to support/oppose whatever you are asking them to do. Thank them for representing you.