



Grassroots 101: Tips for Organizing a Successful Advocacy Phone Call

The most effective way to influence public policy is to get to know your elected officials and their staffs. Building these relationships take effort, but can be an invaluable asset to furthering your cause. Take advantage of every opportunity to enhance your relationships with your elected officials and their staff.

Steps for an effective phone conversation:

1. Before the phone call, rehearse what you want to say and write down key points.
2. Call the legislator's office and state your name and interest to the receptionist and ask to speak to the education legislative assistant (LA).
3. When you reach the LA, state your name, location, and affiliation (e.g. member of CEC). Make sure the LA knows how to contact you in the future.
4. Outline your issues and concerns in a logical order.
5. Do not keep the LA on the phone for more than 5-10 minutes.
6. Request a follow up such as the legislator's positions on the issue, bills, or amendments.
7. If you want to send materials, let the LA know when you will send them.

Additional Resources

CEC Legislative Action Center:

<http://capwiz.com/cek/home/>

CAN Resources: www.cec.sped.org

Federal Hearings:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/chearings/index.html>

Monitor Legislation on The Federal Register:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

Congressional Contact Information:

<http://capwiz.com/cek/dbq/officials/>

House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov>

Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>