



How to Get Legislation Passed in Your State: A Few Practical Tips

Practical Principles

- Be an influencer. Invest in relationships. (Don't just be an activist.)
- Action is better than talk. But action is as easy as talk: a phone call, a meeting, an op-ed, or an email. ... In that order.
- Showing up is more than half the battle.
- Be OK with disagreeing and be polite. No one will ever vote the way you want on every issue.
- Be willing to consider you may not know all the facts.
- Saying thank you really helps, as does awards and public recognition.
- Pray and give God all the glory.

A final bit of advice: Think about this as sales: warm leads vs. cold leads. A warm lead has already been touched by someone they know. They have been warmed up. If possible, always approach a lawmaker (or an audience) with a warm lead.

Practical Tips

- You have one to two minutes. This is an elevator pitch.
- State your name and where you are from.
- State clearly why you want to talk to this particular lawmaker.
- State clearly what you want and why it is important.
- Do your homework to prevent triangulation.
- Don't lie or exaggerate or argue.
- Try to get a card or a cell phone or an email for a follow-up contact.
- It is perfectly acceptable to contact your state legislators at home using the phone number or email address posted on their legislative webpage.

Example: Hi, My name is Mary Smith. I am from Irving, Texas. I want to ask for your vote on an important bill before the education committee. It's called the Protect Girls' Privacy Act (SB 5678). I understand you are an influential member of the committee. This bill is important because it will protect young girls from sexual assault in public school bathrooms. As you may have heard, there was a recent case of sexual assault in the Coppell ISD. This bill is supported by AFA, as well as the TX Center to Prevent Violence Against Women. I have spoken to the chairman of the committee, Senator Taylor, about the bill. He is looking at it. We would very much appreciate your vote for this bill. Here is a one-page, short description of the bill. Thank you for your time today.

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