



Tips for Communicating with Legislators

Be knowledgeable: Be comfortable in discussing the issue(s) you will present to your legislator. Your legislator may ask you questions. Being knowledgeable will assist you in responding to questions. If you don't know the answer to a question, be honest, state that you don't know and offer to follow up with your legislator.

Have a concise message: Legislators are incredibly busy. Respect their time by having your comments prepared ahead of your meeting so that you have a concise message to present.

Relay what is important: Relay the important points of your request as opposed to spending an inordinate amount of time discussing the details of the issue. Legislators are visited by numerous individuals requesting support of various issues – make sure you provide the important points of your request in a user friendly manner.

Always be professional and respectful: Respect is critical, including respecting your legislator's right to disagree with your position on an issue. Arguing and debating with a legislator is not professional and could alienate the legislator. This is your opportunity to demonstrate that nurses are true professionals.

Express your appreciation: Thank your legislator for taking time to discuss your issue, even if the legislator does not share your position. As soon as possible following your meeting, show your gratitude by sending a written thank you note.