

# Quick Tips on Calling Your Legislators



## Your call matters!

Legislators want to hear from you. YOU are actually their top priority! You are their constituent (registered voter) who has the power to use your vote to keep them in or out of office.

Your call to your legislator can make a big difference. It is quite literally counted and recorded in a daily log of constituent contacts. As the number of calls or emails on a particular issue climbs, so does your legislator's attention to that issue.

Calling is easier than it sounds. Here are some tips:



**1. Before you call.** Have an organization's action alert in front of you and **use the checklist** on the reverse to help you get ready.

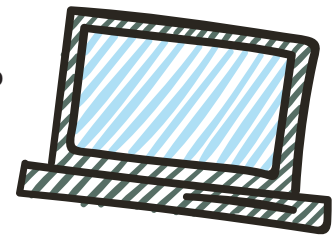
- **What are you calling about?** —the issue and bill number.
- **Why does it matter to you?** This can be as short as "This matters because everyone should be treated fairly." Or "This matters because I know personally what it feels like to..." Sharing your personal experience or what you have witnessed in your community or organization is the most powerful.
- **What are you asking your legislator to do?**  
"Please support OR please oppose OR ..."



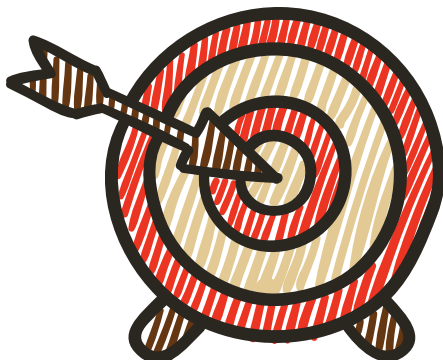
**2. The call.** When you call your legislator, you will almost always talk to a staff person. They are there to help you. Feel free to use the sample script on the reverse as a guide.

**3. Listen carefully.** If the legislative staff person gives you information on the legislator's position, write it down. If they have a follow-up question that you can't answer, it is always ok to say you aren't sure of the answer and will call back. Building a relationship is good!

**4. Email if you must, but a phone call is better!** If making a call feels too difficult, emailing your legislators is an option. Your position will definitely be counted that way, too. But a call has the greatest impact because it is a personal conversation. The more you do it, the easier it gets!



**5. Bonus:** Note the name of the staff person with whom you speak and jot it down in a safe place for next time. Stronger relationships make for greater impact.



Western  
Massachusetts  
network to **end**  
**homelessness**



Get action alerts directly from the Network:  
go to [westernmasshousinfirst.org](http://westernmasshousinfirst.org) to sign up.

## The Checklist —go to [www.findmylegislatorma.gov](http://www.findmylegislatorma.gov) to find your legislator

Remember you will almost always be making these calls as part of an organized campaign. You will be provided the information you need to take action. Use this checklist to help you get ready.

Your State Representative phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your State Senator phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

The issue: \_\_\_\_\_

The bill number if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

You're asking the legislator to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Support \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_ Change—how: \_\_\_\_\_

### Why does it matter to you

Entirely optional! "Greater justice" is sufficient! If you have a personal impact story and feel comfortable sharing, that is great.

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### Call outcome

What did the aide/legislator say on position? On prospect for moving forward or being stopped or anything else?

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Relay your outcome to your campaign coordinator (as determined by the particular campaign). **GREAT JOB!!**

**Sample script** *Constituent:* "Hi my name is [name] and I live at [your street address and town] and I am a constituent of Rep/Senator [name]."

*Legislative aide:* "Hi, how are you?"

*Constituent:* "Good, thanks. I'm calling because I am concerned about [insert issue] and would like my legislator to support [insert name of bill]. The bill number is [H. XXXX and S. XXX]. Can you please tell me [Rep/Senator name's] position on this issue?"

*Legislative aide:* "They have co-sponsored this bill and support it." OR "They do not support it." OR "I don't know their position."

*Constituent: [If legislator supportive]:* Thank you so much, please relay my thanks to [the legislator] and urge them to keep this bill as priority and help advance it through the legislature. This is so important because [can insert personal reason or additional thoughts here if desired].

*[If legislator not supportive]:* Please let [the legislator] know I hope they will reconsider their position. Is there more information that I can get you? This is a vitally important bill because \_\_\_\_\_.

*[If legislator has no position]:* Please let [the legislator] know I hope they support this bill and I would be happy to get you more information. This is a vitally important bill because \_\_\_\_\_.

*Closing:* "Thank for your time and I look forward to talking more."