

ORGANIZING AND EDUCATING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Organizing and educating for the Legislative Session (Doing your part to get a bill passed)

Educating Legislators:

1. Remember, your legislators work for you. They may not always agree with you, but they are elected to listen and consider your point of view.
2. You have potential two sets of legislators—those who represent the district in which you LIVE, and those who represent the district in which you WORK! Use them both.
3. A third set is those who are in the county you work or live in, but not necessarily in the district. Very often, the county delegation work as a team, so reach out to others in the county.
4. Check to see who in your delegation sits on the committees the bills you are working for are assigned to. These are key people early in the session, while the bill is still in committee.
5. Make committee members your first priority. Make sure the whole delegation knows how important a key issue or bill is to you, but focus on committee members.
6. Choose a few key bills, or issues. Don't bombard them with so many they don't feel the pressure or focus.
7. Know the bills well, and be ready to speak to the issue.
8. Call them and leave a short, concise message saying who you are, and why you want to talk about the bill.
9. Write them a short, simple letter about with the same message.
10. Keep trying to talk to them, but also write them a simple letter with bulleted information about the bill.
11. Try to go to the hearing. If you can't, send testimony, or better yet, send someone else.
12. As the session progresses, keep up with the bill, and touch base with both committee members you know, and your delegation. Better yet, be sure there is a group working together on the same bill, and strategizing. Passing bills is often about pressure and anecdotes.

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