

Legislative Advocacy from Home!

Talking face-to-face with your legislator is by far the most effective method of advocacy. MNA can help make this happen. However, if that's not possible, or you want to follow up your visit with a **call** or **email**, here are some tips for reaching out and making your voice heard.

MNA staff can provide you with background information and materials to prepare for your call or letter-writing.

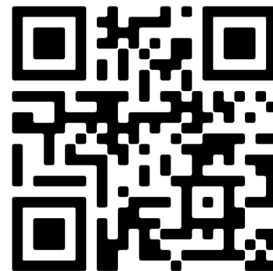
Calling your legislator

- Do your research on the legislator's stance on what you're calling about, so you can take the right approach. MNA can help with this.
- Plan what you want to say before you call. Prepare an outline to cover the major points.
- Begin by stating your name and identifying yourself as a registered nurse and a constituent.
- Ask to speak to the staffer who handles the issue you want to discuss. Use the bill numbers if you have them.
- Deliver a brief and simple message; for example, "I want the Senator to vote yes on Senate Bill XX" or "I want to thank the Representative for cosponsoring XX." Say why in a few sentences.
- Always be courteous, even if you disagree.
- Leave a phone number and email address where you can be reached; offer to provide more information about the issue.
- If the proper person isn't available, leave a message or voicemail with your main points, and request a call back.
- Follow up with a brief letter (or e-mail).



Senator Jeremy Moss of Southfield meets with MNA members at an MNA event at the Capitol.

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR



minurses.org/advocacyresources

Writing or emailing your legislator

Legislators pay more attention to personal correspondence or calls than online form letters or mass emails.

- State that you're a registered nurse and a constituent or identify any connection with the legislator's district.
- State your purpose and request, or thank the legislator for their support, in the first paragraph.
- Refer to legislation by number (and title, if appropriate).
- Describe your practice and the population you serve.
- Address only one issue per letter.
- Keep your letter to one page.
- Make your point clearly and courteously.
- Support your position with research or other reliable information and, most of all, your own experiences as an RN - tell your story. Examples of how the bill(s) will affect patients, healthcare workers and businesses in the legislator's district have the greatest impact.
- End with a thank-you and offer to discuss this further at any time and include your contact info.

MI NURSES Association

Affiliate of National Nurses United and AFL-CIO

