**Tips for Meeting your Lawmaker**

Meeting with or testifying before a state or local governmental body is a great chance to make your case and a chance to gain support for your position before a wider audience. If you are unable to attend a hearing in person, you can also submit written testimony that will be added to the record. Here are some quick tips:

***Keep it local.***Hearing from people who live in their district is most important to the elected official. Lawmaker offices pay close attention to personal communications from people who live in their communities.

***Tell your story.***Lawmakers and other elected officials are given a lot of data and information. Stories are a more personal touch and help give data a human face. Share data on your issue but also back it up with a story about why the issue matters to you.

***Keep it short.***Given how busy lawmaker offices are, the more to the point your message can be, the more likely it is to gain attention.

***Put it in writing.***A written document provides a record in the office that can be used whenever a staff member or lawmaker addresses the issue. When you have a meeting or speak with a lawmaker or staffer on the phone, follow up with a letter briefly going over your discussion and repeating your position.