

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CALLING YOUR LEGISLATOR

Calling your elected official is one of the most important things you can do as an advocate. Legislators track how often they are contacted by their constituents and regarding what issues. Using your voice calls attention to the legislator that the issue you're calling is not only important but that constituents are watching as to how they handle a certain issue. We know it can be overwhelming to call your representative, so here are some tips to guide you. And, we're always willing to help you get in touch with your lawmaker.

DO

- Do make sure you're calling *your legislator* (Check CeaseFirePA.org)
- Do call the legislator's district office rather than their Harrisburg office
- Do try to speak to the legislative director or chief of staff if possible
- Do know the bill numbers you wish to discuss and explain why the issue is important to you
- Do ask if they are co-sponsoring the bill(s), if so ask if they are planning to vote for it
- Do be courteous and polite
- Do follow up, thank them for co-sponsoring or voting on the issue

DON'T

- Don't be afraid if they ask for your name and address (*they are most likely checking that you live in their district*)
- Don't be frustrated if the legislator is not familiar with the issue, they deal with several kinds of issues each day
- Don't be satisfied with "I stand with you." Ask them what they're doing to advance the issue
- Don't stray from one issue to another, stay on topic
- Don't threaten the office or the legislator with political pay back