



MI Air MI Health

Health Professional Testimonials/Meeting your Legislator

Meeting with or testifying before a state or local governmental entity is a valuable opportunity to make a compelling and persuasive case and, ultimately, 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 to remember to help make your case:

Keep it local. The local constituency is most important to the elected official. Legislative offices pay more attention to personal communications from constituents than any other source.

Tell your story. Legislators and other elected officials are inundated with data. Stories convey 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 as a health professional.

Keep it concise. Given the busy nature of legislative offices, the more concise the communication, the more likely it is to receive attention.

Put it in writing. A written communication provides a readily available record in the office that can be used whenever a staff member or legislator addresses the issue. When you have a meeting or speak with a legislator or staffer on the phone, follow up with a letter briefly summarizing your discussion and reiterating your position.

WORKSHEET

1. **Introduction:** Who are you, what are your credentials, and what issue are you here to speak about?
2. **State your position:** What is your position on the issue? Is there data to backup your position?
3. **Tell a story:** Why does this issue matter to you as a health professional? How does it impact the patients or clients you work with?
4. **Closing:** Thank the legislator for their time and make yourself available for questions.