Getting Your Voice Heard
Key Lessons

Tips for Effective Conversations with Legislators
• Remember that you count! You are a constituent.
• Be courteous and cordial
• Know your legislator
• Know the issue
• Always be as brief as possible
• Never underestimate the importance of a legislator’s aide. Treat aides just as you would your legislator.
• Follow up and send thank you letters.

Do’s
• Be courteous
• Be prepared
• Be brief
• Be clear
• Be accurate
• Be persuasive
• Be timely
• Be persistent
• Be grateful

Don’ts
• Don’t make personal attacks
• Don’t be rude or sarcastic
• Don’t be defensive
• Don’t take personal offense to interruptions
• Don’t give up hope if legislator is not responsive
• Don’t take no personally

(Adapted from the New Public Policy for Children and Families: The intersection of the Government, Philanthropy, Business, and Non-Profit Sectors; June 2, 2000)