



TIPS FOR HAVING A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT THE CAPITOL

We'll share advocacy tips during our morning session at Lutheran Day on the Hill. If you're a first-time attendee, there will be many LSI staff or other advocates who can help answer any questions you may have.

Here are a few advocacy tips to think about in advance:

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS

- Approach steps to either the House or Senate Chamber.
- Your event packet will have request slips. They will also be available at a small table by the steps. Fill out your request to see a legislator. It must include the legislator's name and seat number, your name, date, time and a very brief note of your interest.
- Give your note to the staff at the door (in blazers). They will send it to the chamber via pages.
- Wait for your legislator to appear (up to 10 minutes or so).
- Your legislator will come to those steps and call your name, so be listening.
- If the legislator was not at his or her desk, the page will bring the note back to you. You can then try for another legislator.

TALKING TO YOUR LEGISLATORS

- If you're advocating in a group, briefly discuss your strategy in advance. Who will be the main spokesperson? Which issue(s) do you plan to discuss?

- Introduce yourself or your group. Example: "My name is Jane Smith, and I'm one of your constituents from Webster City."
- Pick one to two issues you feel passionate about.
- Introduce your issue: "We want to talk with you about a bill regarding human trafficking."
- Tell them why the issue is important to you, and what action you would like them to take. Make your points in a clear, concise manner.
- Be confident. Your legislator hears about many issues on a regular basis. It's quite possible you may be more informed on your specific issue than he or she is. You're the expert!
- Ask them to keep your conversation in mind throughout the Session.
- When you close, make a clear ask. "Will you support my position during the Session?" Stay silent, expecting the legislator to respond.
- Thank the legislator for taking time to discuss the issues with you.