



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

TIPS FOR ADVOCATES ON MAKING PHONE CALLS

IDENTIFY YOURSELF – Give your name and city and explain that you are a constituent with a concern.

BE FLEXIBLE – Ask to speak to the elected official directly, but if that isn't possible, speak to his/her aide. Aides do a lot of research for legislators and often recommend what they should do.

IDENTIFY THE ISSUE – Have notes handy with the specific bill number or title and any statistics you want to convey. State your position clearly and directly.

BE POLITE BUT FIRM – Do not threaten with the power of your vote. If the elected official disagrees with you, don't hesitate to politely push back.

ASK FOR INFORMATION – Elected officials have lots of valuable information that they are more than willing to share. Ask when action is expected on your issue. Ask about the opposition and what impact they are having.

ASK FOR SUPPORT – Ask if the elected official already has a position on your issue and how he/she intends to vote.

ASK FRIENDS TO MAKE PHONE CALLS – One call is powerful and five is even more so.

REMEMBER – ON ANY ONE ISSUE, EVEN A FEW PHONE CALLS CAN HAVE AN IMPACT.