

ACTION TOOLS: Calling Your Legislator

PHONE CALLS



If you find that you do not have time to write a letter, making a phone call is one of the quickest ways to contact your legislator. And when an urgent matter arises, nothing brings an issue to the attention of a legislator like tying up the office phone lines.

There are several tips to remember before making a phone call:

- First, ask to speak to the staffer working on your issue.
- Second, if you're a constituent, identify yourself as one.
- Third, be brief and specific. Staffers are busy people and they will appreciate your effort to keep your conversation concise.
- Fourth, be courteous and polite. If you get angry, you may lose your credibility.
- Finally, offer to send information you have on the subject so that the staffer can be better informed on how the issue affects the community.

Sample Telephone Script

“My name is *<name>*. I am a constituent, and I work at *<shelter or program>*. I urge *<Representative or Senator's name>* to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act before it expires in September.

VAWA has protected millions of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In our community alone, VAWA has been instrumental in providing funding and training for *<list key programs>*. *<Name of your shelter or program>* serves *<number>* of victims each year. It is imperative that Congress reauthorize and enhance existing VAWA programs and create new programs to meet our community's needs.

If you have any questions or if I can provide you with any additional information please feel free to contact me at *<phone number>*. Thank you.”

If you do not know the telephone number for your Senator or Representative call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at **(202) 224-3121**.