**Special points of interest:**

- Become an Informed Citizen. Know the legislative process.
- Communicate with your Legislators through email, letter writing, and personal meetings.
- Other Advocacy tools; Phone trees, letters to the editor, petition drives, public forums, and connecting with other “like” organizations.

**Inside this issue:**

- Writing to your Legislator: 2
- Indiana Associations: 2
- Sample Letter: 2
- Washington Lawmakers: 3
- Indiana Lawmakers: 4
- Action Refrigerator Guide: 4

**HOW TO TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATOR**

- **Be Professional and courteous and polite.** Let them know from the beginning why you are visiting or contacting them.

- **Be Brief.** Give your position and make your point as clearly and concisely as possible. Their schedule is at least as busy as yours.

- **Be Logical:** An emotional appeal is not enough. Back your arguments with facts and substance. Explain how the proposed legislation will affect you.

- **Educate them about the issues.** They have to make decisions on hundreds of issues each legislative session and they need credible information from you to help them with their decisions. If you have them valid information, they will continue to use you as a resource in the future.

- **Let them know you are a constituent of theirs.** Elected officials are often more open to suggestions from a voter in their legislative district. Let them know if other constituents in their legislative district feel the same way.

- **Be specific.** Refer to an issue by bill number and discuss its content. Clearly identify the action (support, oppose, amend) you would like your legislator to take.

- **It's ok to research.** When asked a question, answer it briefly, but answer it. If the question requires some research, say so, and be sure you get back to them. Re-state your position.

- **Thank them for any work or assistance they have done on your behalf.** Be calm. Remember they are people with jobs just like you!

**WHAT CAN I DO... WILL MY VOICE REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Influencing the legislative process begins with informed Citizens. It is important to know the legislative process. Not only is it important for you to write letters, and make phone calls to your legislators, Grassroots lobbying is truly the key to influencing legislation. One letter from a constituent to a member of congress is considered to represent the views of 1,000 people; so it is key to rally grassroots organizations together to make a LOUD voice! (Imagine the impact of 150 letters to a legislator on a bill?) Grassroots lobbying can be done through getting
If time permits, make the letter or email YOURS! Use your own words. Form, letters or emails are quickly recognized and discounted.

- Limit each contact to a single bill.
- Include the bill # and brief description of the subject matter.
- BRIEFLY state why you are interested in a particular bill. Why do you want your legislator to vote for or against a bill, or help it get out of committee?
- Be courteous. Never attack a legislator no matter what his or her past actions have been.
- In general, contact a legislator from another district only if he or she is chairperson of a committee you wish to influence.
- Quality, not quantity counts. Contact a legislator only once on a subject unless you have new information to offer.
- Sign your name and include your email or home address to facilitate contact by the legislator.
- FOLLOW UP. Thank a legislator for voting in support of your views.
- The proper way to address your legislator follows:

  The Honorable:_______
  Dear Senator: _________
  Dear Representative: ___

Sample Letter to Legislator

The Honorable [name of legislator]
Address
City, State  ZIP

RE:  Urging the Legislature to Immediately Address_______________

Dear [Senator/Assemblyman/Assemblywoman] [Last name of legislator]:

Body of Letter. Explain why you are in support or against this legislation.

Sincerely,

[Your name]
Address
City, State  ZIP
Telephone number

WHAT CAN I DO... WILL MY VOICE REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE? (continued from front)

Letters of press releases printed in community newspapers, working within your church to set up a way of disseminating information on hot legislation, arranging groups to attend public forums, petition drives, phoning call-in shows, appearing on a local cable TV public access channel, etc. The ideas are endless! The key to changing the system is... TO GET INVOLVED!! Influencing legislators who make policies that affect our lives, is something anyone can do! And it is something we should do if we expect to keep our legislators informed about our issues. In order to be true representatives of the people, legislators need to know the thinking of their constituents on those issues upon which decisions will be made. You can help ensure good legislation on state and national levels by communicating with your elected representative, and getting others to act as well.

Your voice Counts! Get involved!
“ONE MAN
WITH COURAGE
IS A MAJORITY”

THOMAS JEFFERSON

United States Senate
Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

The Honorable Daniel Coats (R-IN)
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401
202-224-5623
www.coats.senate.gov/contact/

The Honorable Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
United States Senate
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1404
202-224-4814
http://www.donnelly.senate.gov/contact/email

United States House of Representatives
Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121 ■ Washington, DC 20515

Who is my Congressman?
https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml

Dist 1 Peter J. Visclosky (D)
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
202-225-2461 or 219-795-1844
www.house.gov/Visclosky.com

Dist 2 Jackie Walorski (R)
419 Cannon House Office Building
202-225-3915
Www.walorski.house.gov

Dist 3 Marlin Stutzman (R)
1728 Longworth Office Building
202-225-4436 or 260-424-3041
www.stutzman.house.gov

Dist 4 Todd Rokita(R)
236 Cannon Office Building
202-225-5037 or 317-718-0404
www.rokita.house.gov

Dist 5 Susan Brooks (R)
1505 Longworth House Office Building
202-225-2276 or 317-848-0201
www.susanbrooks.house.gov

Dist 6 Luke Messer (R)
508 Cannon House Office Building
202-225-3021
www.messer.house.gov

Dist 7 Andre Carson (D)
2453 Rayburn House Office Building
202-225-4011 or 317-283-6516
www.carson.house.gov

Dist 8 Larry Bucshon (R)
105 Longworth House Office Building
202-225-4636 or 812-465-6484
www.bucshon.house.gov

Dist 9 Todd Young
1007 Longworth House Office Building
202-226-5315
www.toddyoung.house.gov
STATE LEADERS IN INDIANAPOLIS

Governor Mike Pence
200 W Washington St
Indianapolis, In 46504
317-232-4567

Lt. Governor Sue Ellsperman
200 W Washington St.
Indianapolis, In 46204
317-232-4545

INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INDIANA SENATE
200 W Washington St
Indianapolis, In 46204
317-232-9400 or 800-382-9467

INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
200 W Washington St
Indianapolis, In 46204
317-232-9600 or 800-382-9842

INDIANA REFRIGERATOR GUIDE

Contacting your State Legislator

Finding your “State” Lawmaker is very easy! 1.) Go to www.in.gov 2.) Click on the “Legislative “ link 3.)Click on the “Find your Legislator” link 4.) Type in your address 5.) A list of all of your legislators will appear. (including all elected offices in your area) Here you can email them, go to their web site, or call them. You can even see the entire list of their legislative bills.

My Senator
State Senator: ______________ Phone: ______________ Email: ______________
US Senator: ______________ Phone: ______________ Email: ______________

My Representative
State Representative: ______________ Phone: ______________ Email: ______________
US Congressman: ______________ Phone: ______________ Email: ______________

Ten colleagues who will be willing to contact their Legislator too!
1.) ___________________ Phone:___________ 6.) __________________Phone:____________
2.) ___________________ Phone:___________ 7.) __________________Phone:____________
3.) ___________________ Phone:___________ 8.) __________________Phone:____________
4.) ___________________ Phone:___________ 9.) __________________Phone:____________
5.) ___________________ Phone:___________ 10.-____________________Phone:___________

Drafted by Monica Boyer, Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana