

ADVOCACY BY TELEPHONE

Using the Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

Our Legislature has a toll-free, Legislative Hotline. You can call it at 1-800-562-6000. This is a quick way for any Washington resident to convey their views on bills under consideration. When you call, be prepared to give your name and street address to the operators so they can determine your district. There are translators and interpreters available if you are not an English speaker.

- You can use the Hotline to send the same message to all three of your state legislators and the Governor!
- The Hotline is not an answering service; it is only to send brief messages about specific bills. If you wish to speak directly to a legislator, you must call their office. Hotline operators cannot transfer your call.
- Remember your [key message](#) – this is the time to use your most streamlined version! Being brief and clear will increase the chance that your message will be recorded correctly, and that it will be understood by your legislators. These messages are hand-typed by the operators and forwarded electronically to the elected officials.
- If the Hotline is busy when you call, just keep trying. Getting through can take several calls.
- During Legislative session, the Hotline is open 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday through Friday. During Interim, the Hotline is open 8:00 am – Noon, and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Calling your legislator's office directly:

When the legislature is in session, you can call your legislators at their offices in Olympia. Lists of members' names, office addresses, and phone numbers are available on individual legislator webpages found on leg.wa.gov or from the [Legislative Information Center](#) (360-786-7573).

- Remember your key message!
- In the course of delivering your message, be sure to:
 - Identify yourself by name and address or district (this verifies that you are their constituent).
 - Identify the bill you wish to talk about, by name and number (if possible).
- If your legislator needs further information on the subject, supply it as quickly as possible. You can send them a follow-up email or call them back when you have the information they requested.
- Do not be abusive, and don't threaten your legislator! Don't get argumentative if your legislator has an opposing view or hasn't yet decided. Just have a conversation and share your views and stories.
- Recognize that legislators are often away from the office during session, so you will likely end up talking to their Legislative Assistant. That's great! Use the same basic rules and treat them well! Staff members are very reliable, know the legislators well, and will pass along your message.
- Follow up your call with a note or email restating your position and thanking them for their time.