

APPROACHING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

WRITING A LETTER. Legislators can get a better sense of public opinion if they see those opinions in writing. Here are some tips:

1. ADDRESS YOUR LETTER PROPERLY. To write an effective letter to the [House of Representatives](#) or to [the Senate](#), address the letter to:

Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Send letters to state elected officials at your state capitol. You should be able to get their addresses at your local public library or by calling the state capitol directly.

2. IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND WHO YOU ARE. Are you a parent? Are you a provider?

3. BE CONCISE, BE POLITE AND REQUEST A RESPONSE.

- Keep your letter to one page
- Urge your elected official to take action
- Ask that he/she reply to your letter.

MAKING A PHONE CALL. If you do not have the time to write a letter, or action is expected quickly on a piece of legislation, call your elected official--either in Washington, in the district office or at the state capitol.

Many of the rules for letter writing also apply to making phone calls:

- Be sure to introduce yourself by name and address.
- Don't be surprised if you don't speak directly with your official. Many times callers are referred to an aide who keeps the official informed of the citizen's opinion.

To contact federal government leaders, call:

- Washington Capitol Exchange at 202-224-3121 (for Senators and Representatives)
- [The White House](#) at 202-456-7639 (to register public opinion).

To contact state leaders:

- call your state capitol.

To send a Public Service Opinionogram:

- call Western Union at 1-800-325-6000.

STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED

To remain informed about child care issues and to strengthen the voice for children, families and caregivers, join any of the national organizations sponsoring Child Care Aware or their local affiliate:

[Child Care Action Campaign](#), 330 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001, 212-239-0138

[Families & Work Institute](#), 330 - 7th Ave., 14th Floor, 212-465-2044

NACCRRA, 1319 F Street NW, #810, Washington, DC 20004, 202-393-5501

[National Association for the Education of Young Children](#), 1509 - 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, 800-424-2460

[National Association for Family Child Care](#), 206 - 6th Ave., #900, Des Moines, IA 50309-4015, 515-282-8192

Contact Child Care Aware at 800-424-2246
to get the name and telephone number of your local CCR&R agency.

©2000 NACCRRA