

LOBBYING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Before the meeting:

- Identify who your legislators are.
- Do some background research on the issue you want to discuss.
- Rehearse a brief one or two sentence description of your issue.
- Obtain some relevant background information on your elected official(s). You can get this information from Minnesota AIDS Project public policy staff by sending an email to publicpolicy@mnaidsproject.org.

During the meeting:

- Keep in mind that you are their constituent, and they are there to serve you. Try not to be intimidated.
- Start the meeting with the one or two sentence description you rehearsed about why you are meeting with them.
- Try to relate at least one quick real life example.
- Have your notebook or calendar handy in case the legislator asks for a follow-up meeting or for additional information.
- Be aware of the legislator's busy schedule and do not stay longer than 10 minutes unless she/he asks you to stay.
- If the legislator cannot meet with you for some reason, meet with staff and leave a personal note summarizing your message and request.

After the meeting:

- Send a follow-up letter thanking the legislator and/or staff for time spent on your issue. Include a brief summary of action to be taken.
- Keep your legislators informed of the progress or problems concerning the issue.