

Feedback From Legislators Regarding Effective Ways to Advocate

1. Form Letters are not effective. You will get a form letter in response.
2. Avoid “canned” email
3. Communicate with **your** legislator, not every legislator (always include your home address)
4. Be aware of the state’s budget crisis—we can only do so much
5. Don’t flood us with emails and calls every week
6. Keep it personal—individual personal emails versus list serves and preprinted postcards
7. Phone calls and good old fashioned letters are most effective
8. Communications—Local and State all types of communications are ok, on the Federal level send mail to the District office if it is important. If it is mailed to Washington the mail screening process can take weeks!
9. Invite elected officials to your events—especially ones with the kids!
10. Give your kids early exposure to elected officials and government process—future voters!
11. Keep early childhood programs, needs and issues in their face (nicely!)—Keep it going!

Feedback received at a Legislative dinner held on 8-16-07 in Jackson County hosted by the Great Start Parent Coalition. Officials in attendance: Representative Martin Griffin, Renell Weathers (Field Representative, Senator Schauer), Jill Larder (Field Representative, Congressman Tim Walberg)