

Sample Phone Call

The effect of the phone call is similar to that of letter writing. As with all grassroots advocacy, your call is most likely to receive attention if you have developed a personal relationship with the legislator or staffer. Often, calls are “logged” as for or against a particular issue. Sometimes, you may not get past the receptionist or intern. Nonetheless, making a well-timed call can be particularly important. And, especially when combined with calls from your colleagues on the same issue, the call may tip the balance in your favor. So, don't hesitate to call.

For Whom Should You Ask?

- Ask for the senator or representative if you know them personally.
- If you don't know the senator or representative, ask to speak with the legislative assistant who handles your issue. For most issues, that probably will be the legislative assistant who handles education issues.
- If you can't reach a legislative assistant, leave a concise message. Legislative offices do count the number of calls they receive on an issue — pro and con — and relay that information to the senator or representative.

Sample Message:

Hi, my name is **[your name]** and I am a constituent from your district. I am calling to express my concern about Governor Rauner's budget cuts to social services and public health programs, and to encourage **[legislator's name]** to restore Teen REACH funding and support the Expanded Learning Program in ISBE's budget. These cuts are unacceptable and jeopardize the safety and well-being of the 70,000 students and 11,000 families who utilize afterschool programs every day in Illinois. Thank you for your time.