

# Guidance for Action

Please heed this guidance from a high-level Senator's staffer:

## Meet face-to-face

- **Attend** your representative at Town Hall events.
- **Visit** your representative's local offices.
- If you're in DC, **visit** your representatives' office and **attend** their events there.
- **Visit** representatives' "mobile offices" (their staff hold these periodically and list the times and dates on the representative's website).
- **Attend** representatives' local events (ribbon cuttings, etc.)
- **Ask questions** wherever you attend, and push for clear answers. Be vocal and assertive and be respectful, especially if you are representing a group. Remember: the opposition will use anything they can to discredit you.
- Tell them the **zip code** of your residence. Share information about your employment or unemployment. Be honest that you are representing yourself as a constituent and be clear that **you are not being paid** by anyone to attend or speak your mind.

Don't bother with online petitions. They get ignored. Letters are often thrown in the trash unless you have a very strong, emotional story.

## If you can't visit, CALL:

Calls are what all congressional representatives pay attention to. Every single day, the Senior Staff and the Senator or Congressperson get a report of the 3 most-called-about topics for that day from each of their offices, and what people's opinions were on those topics (Example: Vote yes or no on this bill or that appointment, etc.)

**You should make 6 calls a day. (Yes, six!)** Save the 6 phone numbers in your phone contacts all under Politician, which makes it really easy to tap down the list each day:

1. 1 call to Tenney's DC office: 202-225-3665
2. 1 call to Tenney's local office: 315-732-0713
3. 1 call to Senator Schumer's DC office: 202-224-6542
4. 1 call to Senator Schumer's local office: 315-423-5471
5. 1 call to Senator Gillibrand's DC office: 202-224-4451
6. 1 call to Senator Gillibrand's local office: 315-448-0470

**Give them your zip code! Calls are sorted by zip code and area code.**

In the past, Republican callers have generally outnumbered Democrats 4-1. When it's a particular single-issue that voters pay attention to (i.e., gun control), it's often closer to 11-1, which has often pushed moderate Republicans to vote along party lines, and sometimes pressured moderate Democrats to align with Republicans.

## What To Say When You Call

- **Ask for the name** of whomever you're speaking to.
- **Keep talking** to whoever answered the phone. Don't leave a message, unless the office doesn't pick up at all.
- **Give them your zip code** so they can mark it down. Extra points if you live in a zip code that traditionally votes for them, since they'll want to make sure they get/keep your vote.
- **Make it personal** if you can, but don't get too detailed. "I voted for you in the last election and I'm worried/happy/upset about..." or "I'm a nurse, and I am appalled by the possible loss of care for my patients if the ACA is appealed," or "As a single mother, I want to let you know..." or "As a white/black/Hispanic middle class woman, I feel..." or however else you choose to share a brief personal story. Do not ramble. They won't record specifics beyond the topic and your general feeling of approval or disapproval.
- **Pick one specific topic** per day to focus on. Don't go down a whole list. If you have several topics that day, split them up between office calls: 1 priority for the DC office and 1 for the local office. Choose something that will be voted on or taken up in the next few days. Even if there's not a vote coming up in the next week, call anyway. It's important that they just keep getting calls.
- **Be clear on what you want.** Say, "I'm disappointed that the Senator..." or "I want to thank the Senator for their vote on..." or "I want the Senator to know that voting in \_\_\_\_\_ way is the wrong decision for our state because..." Don't leave any ambiguity.
- **Call to say thank you.** They need to hear about our support, too.

They may get to know your voice or get sick of you, but it doesn't matter. The people answering the phones generally turn over every 6 weeks, so even if they're really sick of you, they'll be gone soon.

If you need a script there are plenty to choose from online. There are several at [www.indivisibleguide.com](http://www.indivisibleguide.com). After a few days of calling, it starts to feel a lot more natural.

## Generic Script sample

Hello, my name is **[tell them Your Name]**.

I am a concerned citizen calling from **[tell them your Zip Code]**.

I do not need a response to my concern, but I would like to know your name, please **[wait for Their Name and write it down]**.

Thank you, **[Their Name that they just told you]**.

I am calling today to urge **[Representative's Name]** to **[Oppose or Support depending on the action]** the **[Appointment or Bill Number and Description]**.

*Example: I am calling today to urge Representative Tenney to Support Bill H.R. 804 to keep Steve Bannon out of the Situation Room and ensure that national security decisions are not influenced by political considerations.*

My future vote will be influenced by **[Representative's Name]**'s decision.

This matter is very important to me. **[Share One or Two Sentences about Why it is Personally Important to You and give a reason that is convincing and powerful.]**

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

I appreciate the work **[Representative's Name]** is doing to support his/her constituents.