Calling and emailing your state legislators are highly effective ways to voice your opinion on a state policy issue and to persuade them to support or oppose a piece of legislation.

TAILOR THIS SCRIPT:

“Hello, my name is ____________________, and I am (calling/emailing) about (bill/issue).

This (bill/issue) is (important/not good) because:
  Reason #1
  Reason #2

This issue affects (me/my community) because:
  Reason #1
  Reason #2

I would like (State Representative/State Senator) to (support/oppose) (issue/bill) in committee or on the floor should it come up for a vote.

Thank you for your time.”

WHO TO CONTACT:

➤ You should call and email your specific state legislators.
➤ If you know who your legislators are, you can find their contact information on their websites.
➤ If you do not know who represents you, you can find out here: https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites.

TIPS ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:

When calling:

➤ The most effective calls utilize your personal experience with a program. Prepare a phone script and explain how the issue or bill impacts your community.
➤ Ask to speak with the legislative staffer who deals with higher education issues. Introduce yourself and let them know why you are calling. Be courteous and polite.
➤ If you are calling to support or oppose a specific piece of legislation, be ready with the bill's title or number (e.g., HB 123 / SB 123).
➤ The staffer may ask for your mailing address or zip code to verify that you are a constituent and may ask for your contact information so that they can follow up.

When emailing:

➤ The best communications are courteous, succinct, and describe how a program or benefit has impacted you, your students or your community.
➤ Your email should address a single topic or issue.
➤ Your email should follow this pattern:
  • Say who you are and why you are writing. List your "credentials." (If you want a response, you must include your name and address, even when using email).
  • Provide specific, rather than general, information about how the topic affects you and others.
  • If a specific bill is involved, cite the title or number (e.g., HB 123 / SB 123).
  • Close by politely requesting the action you want taken: a vote for or against a bill or a change in policy.