

Contact Your State Legislators

Advocate for access, affordability and value in graduate and professional education.

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."



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS®

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.

For more information on how to get involved, contact us at Policy@accesslex.org.

[AccessLex.org](https://www.accesslex.org)