

Call Your Members of Congress

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

Calling your congressional members (Representative or Senators) is an effective way to voice your opinion on an issue and influence their position on public policy.

WHO TO CALL:

If you know who your Congressional members are, simply look up their phone numbers on their websites. If you do not know who your Representative or Senators are, you can find out in a few ways:

- > Look up your House member by zip code: www.house.gov
- > Find your Senators by state: www.senate.gov/states
- > Call the Capitol Switchboard: **(202) 224-3121**

TIPS WHEN CALLING:

- > Introduce yourself and indicate you are a constituent.
 - Very few members of Congress, if any, track correspondence from outside their state or district, so it is important to convey immediately that you are a constituent.
- > Explain why you are calling.
 - Describe the issue, why it is important to you, and any other relevant facts you would like your congressional leader to be aware of.
- > Highlight a personal experience related to the topic you are calling about.
 - A personalized account of how policy impacts you or your community is invaluable when communicating with your members of Congress.
- > If you are calling to support or oppose specific legislation, be ready with the bill's title or number (e.g. H.R. 1234 / S. 1234).
- > Be polite and courteous with staff.
- > Be sure to provide your contact information, including name, address, phone number, and email.
- > Always ask for a written response.
 - Every office manages its constituent correspondence differently, and affirmatively asking for a response letter is one of the best ways to ensure your voice is being heard.

SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT

*"Hello, my name is Jane Doe, and I am a constituent of yours. I am calling about the importance of the **Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program**. The PSLF program is vital to ensuring that highly qualified people like myself can fill critical public service jobs that may otherwise go vacant. Public servants are paid considerably less than their private sector counterparts. I, and other graduates, are depending on the PSLF program to be able to continue serving the most vulnerable populations in our community without the long-term burden of student loan debt.*

I took a job in public service because I wanted to help people in our community, and I see the benefit of this work every day. The PSLF program gives me the financial support I need to continue to provide essential services to those who need it. I am asking that Senator Doe support the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program as it currently exists to show his/her commitment to serving not just our community, but our society as a whole. I would like to request a written response on this issue, and I'd be happy to provide my contact information."

TAILOR THIS SCRIPT:

"Hello, my name is _____
and I am calling from your district. I am calling about
(issue/bill)

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

Reason #2

This issue is personal to
(me/my community) because:
Reason #1

Reason #2

I would like (Member) to
(support/oppose) (issue/bill) in
committee or on the floor
should it come up for a vote.
May I provide you with my
contact information so that you
can send me a written
response on this topic?"



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