

## TIPS ON COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Explain the problem or issue that you would like them to address (If an upcoming Bill, state bill Number)
- Offer a solution for what you are advocating (i.e. vote yes or no on a bill)
- Explain why you care (give facts and link to credible sources, or share a personal story on why you care).
- Heinrich actually quotes his constituent's messages on the Senate floor.
- Explain Why They Should Want to Act
- Keep it to one issue and be concise (not too wordy or a litany of grievances )
- If not an urgent issue, letters and postcards usually stand out. Heinrich's Chief-of-Staff suggested phone calls for simple messages and emails or letters for longer ones. You can contact your representatives and ask how they like to be contacted. Senator Debbie O'Malley prefers emails.
- Your elected official cares more about his constituents than others and groups get even more attention.
- Always THANK them. In fact, a call or email thanking them for their service to their country and state is appreciated. Also, BE KIND to the staff. They are under a lot of pressure.

Other ways to communicate:

- 1) Meet with officials and lobby them,
- 2) Write a letter to the editor or
- 3) speak at a public meeting.