


ADVOCACY

AAUW NC



Thank you to Kay Paksoy who prepared this information for use on April 9 Advocacy Day for NC Women United

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Why advocate?

- Being a Representative or Senator is a **PART TIME** job in NC!
- We are the experts on the issues affecting women and girls.
- We can relay messages of problems going on in specific legislative districts (our communities).
- We can help influence decision making because we know how to look at an issue from a community perspective.

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- **We** are the constituents
- **We** are the voters



- Legislators are in office to represent their districts and **we** need to have a voice in the representation.

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How can you influence legislation?

- Help write a bill/draft language to an issue
- Attend a committee meeting to speak on behalf of the bill OR provide your legislator with information to share at a committee meeting
- Write a letter or email to your legislator; schedule an in person meeting or talk on the phone
- Educate others that should be involved on the issue

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Lobbying Dos

- 1.DO** be **TRUTHFUL**. You want to gain respect from the legislator.
- 2.DO** relate the issue to the specific district of the legislator—present the need.
- 3.DO** show knowledge on both sides of the issue.
- 4.DO** admit if you do not know the answer. Respond that you will get back with the legislator as soon as possible and get the accurate information.
- 5.DO** show interest in getting to know the legislator's staff.
- 6.DO** follow up the visit with a thank you note, email or phone call.

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Lobbying Don'ts

- 1.DON'T** LIE.
- 2.DON'T** be disrespectful to the legislator who does not agree with your position.
- 3.DON'T** argue with the legislator.
- 4.DON'T** overload the legislator with too much information. General rule of thumb- one visit, one issue.
- 5.DON'T** let the conversation get sidetracked from the point. Keep everyone on topic.
- 6.DON'T** assume they know the issue you are talking about. Give them **ALL** the information, even if it seems redundant.

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Summary

- Find out about AAUW Issues by going to www.aauw.org/issues/
- Find out what's happening in the NC Legislature
- Study the issues and be brief
- Make an appointment with the legislator
- Make the visit, ADVOCATE, and write a "thank you" note
- Keep in touch with the home office and attend Advocacy Day in Raleigh

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