PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY and JUSTICE

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10 Tips for Having a Successful Meeting with Your Legislator

1. You are representing Partnership for Safety and Justice and our legislative agenda. If you need to talk with your legislator about other issue, please schedule another time with your legislator to do so!

2. Have your topic and key messages ready. Two to three key points are all you need.

3. Be respectful and courteous of your legislator and *all* their staff. Do not argue or lose your temper.

4. If lobbying with a group, one or two people should be prepared to speak on behalf of the group. Agree on your "messenger" and note-taker before you arrive at your meeting.

5. At the meeting, identify yourself, our organization: Partnership for Safety and Justice, and that you live in the legislator's district. Introduce everyone in your group by name.

6. Stick to your two or three **key** points on the issue. Be sure to discuss how it impacts your legislator's district. A *brief* personal story can help them see the importance of the issue.

7. Give the legislator a chance to express his/her point of view – be a good listener. If you are asked a question you cannot answer, **don't** make up information or facts. Offer to research the question and get back to them with the answer.

8. ASK for something SPECIFIC: *Will you vote for or against HB/SB ___ ?*

Will you support funding for ____?

If they cannot commit, ask: *Do you need more info?*

What factors will help you decide?

9. Even if they're not saying what you hope to hear, leave on a friendly note. Leave supporting documents, like the fact sheet we provide to you.

10. Take notes or have someone take notes during the meeting, or immediately after. Fill in your **Report Form**. PSJ will send follow up information if needed. You've just made a positive difference!