



## 9 Tips For Successfully Phone Lobbying Your Legislator

1. Dial the number. Expect a staff person or a message machine to take the call.
2. Be courteous and respectful of them and *all* their staff. Do not argue.
3. Identify yourself, and be prepared to give your address or identify yourself as a constituent from their district.
4. State clearly the ONE issue you are calling about. If there are bill numbers related to them, refer to them.
5. Ask the legislator or their staff if the legislator has taken a stand on the issue. If they can't tell you, ask for a return call to let you know.
6. Give the legislator/staffer a chance to express their position— 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.
7. Stick to one-two key points about how/why you support or oppose specific legislation. If relevant, mention how it impacts their district. A *brief* personal statement (1-2 sentences maximum) can help them see the importance of the issue.
8. Drop a quick note in the mail or email us ([erika@safetyandjustice.org](mailto:erika@safetyandjustice.org)), to let us know how it went. Be sure to include the topic you called them about, who you talked to, and what they said. Let us know if any follow-up is needed.
9. PSJ will send follow up information if needed. You've just made a difference!

**Phone Lobbying  
Sample Script**

Hi, my name is Erika Spaet and I live in Senator Shields' district in North Portland.

I'm calling to encourage Senator Shields to continue to support the 2009 Safety and Savings Act. I know Senator Shields supported it during the last session, and it's important to me that he continues to do so.

I understand that there may be difficulties in protecting the earned-time element of the act. I just wanted to call and say how important it is to me that we keep these savings and reinvest them in public safety services like domestic violence programs and drug and alcohol treatment.

If Senator Shields has any questions, please have him call me back. My phone number is 123-456-7890.

Thanks very much for your time.