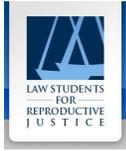




# 2017 PRO - CHOICE LOBBY DAY



## Pro-ChoiceResources



Whole Woman's Health of the Twin Cities



## How to Lobby Your Legislators

Effective lobbying is a powerful means of securing a legislator's commitment to the Pro-Choice cause!

Your voice and opinions as a constituent are important to legislators. Try not to be intimidated by talking to them. They are regular people who care about issues just like we do!

### The Appointment

If you pre-registered for Lobby Day, you should have an appointment already set with your legislator and you can find that information in your folder. We have a limited number of Lobby Coaches to accompany you in the meeting if you would like.

You may be the only constituent for your lobby visit, or you may be meeting with a group of several constituents who live in your district.

Most appointments will take place in the legislator's offices, but in some cases the legislator may be in a committee meeting. There should be instructions on how to contact them. Please see a staff member if you have questions about your appointment.

Prepare to be flexible – this is a busy time of year, you may have to hunt around the Capitol to find your legislator. Pro-Choice Lobby Day staff or volunteers are available to help with this effort.

Legislators have been told you are coming and are prepared to speak with you for a brief period of time. Don't hesitate to pull them off of the floor or out of committee.

### Prepare for the Lobby Visit

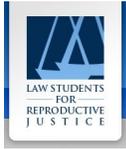
The Legislative Update and Lobby 101 sessions have been designed to prepare you as much as possible for your meeting. There is information in your folder on the legislation and issues we are focusing on for Pro-Choice Lobby Day.

If you have questions about which issues to talk to your legislators about, please see a staff person.

Convene a meeting of your group before the meeting to make sure that everybody understands the desired outcome and agrees on any requests you might want to make in case you are unsuccessful in attaining your objective.

Assign one major point to each person and select a leader who will make certain each point gets covered.

**GENDER JUSTICE**



**Pro-Choice Resources**



**Whole Woman's Health of the Twin Cities**



**Conduct an Effective Meeting**

Be on time and show proper respect to you legislators and their staff.

Introduce each person by name and state what your concerns are.

Start on a positive note by thanking the legislator for something (i.e. thank you for meeting with us, thank you for being a pro-choice advocate, etc.). Present your concern. Be clear. Do not assume the legislator knows everything about the issue.

Give specific examples about how the problem affects your life.

Always mention specific legislation by name or bill number. Be bilingual – know the pro-choice and anti-choice name of the bill.

Be honest and direct. Do not be afraid to admit that you do not know all the answers. Explain how NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota can help the legislator understand the issue.

Relate what you would like the legislator to do regarding this issue. Never make threats – e.g., “vote for this bill or we’ll throw you out of office.”

Engage the legislator in conversation – avoid delivering a lecture.

Tell your story. If you have a personal story that you are willing to share, tell the legislator about your experience. A personal story from a constituent is a lot more meaningful to a legislator than just about anything else.

Ask specific questions that require specific answers. Try to get a solid commitment from you legislator.

Always end on a positive note, even if the legislator will not commit to supporting you.

Remember: You are a constituent and your legislator wants and needs to hear your voice! They are normal people holding elected office – no need to be intimidated or afraid if them! Articulate your message respectfully and you will have a positive experience as a citizen lobbyist.

**Follow-Up**

Inform the Pro-Choice Lobby Day Coalition of the results of your meeting as soon as convenient. You can do this by filling out your evaluation in your folder. Make certain that everybody sends a thank-you letter that highlights any commitments made by your legislator. Thank-you notes may be found in the Great Hall after you visit. Promptly send any information that you promised during the meeting.

Continue to communicate with the legislator and build a solid relationship