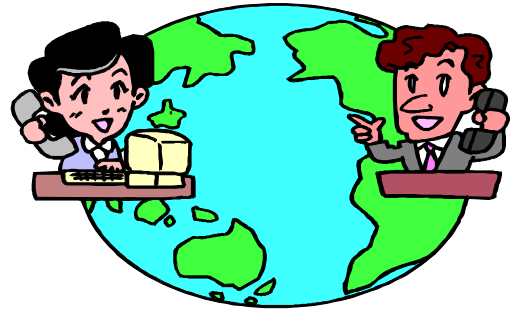


ADVOCACY FACTS



- It may appear that there are big and powerful forces at play in Olympia. But the real forces are personal. To receive 10 calls makes an impact. A legislator will sit up and take notice of even just 5 calls. If they don't hear from a constituent and aren't well informed about an issue, they'll take their cue from another lawmaker, who may or may not be sympathetic to our point of view.
- One phone call equals at least 15 contacts for a legislator.
- 51% -- Elected officials think in terms of 51%, and so should we.
- They need 50% of the vote to get/stay in office....51% of their colleagues on a Committee to get their bills moving through the process, and 51% of the members of the full House or Senate to get something passed. When we come to them with an idea, they wonder: Is it something 51% of the voters, my colleagues, or the legislature could go along with?
- One dozen legislators are on a committee, so 7 people are the majority and can change a decision.
- As a group, ECEAP and Head Start families represent thousands of voters in Washington - and nearly a million throughout the U.S.! This can make for a very powerful collective impact on legislation.
- Lawmakers receive a lot of technical information from their staff, state agency personnel, and professional lobbyists. Yet much of what they actually decide depends on the views, interests, and preferences of the citizens who elect them.
- To make a difference in the legislative process, you must develop a relationship with your lawmakers. Keep in mind that you can work effectively with someone even if the views you hold are different. While you may not agree on every issue, you can still build positive and lasting relationships in the long run.
- Always be polite, even if you are not treated as courteously as you'd like. Remember, the impression you make may influence how thousands of other low-income Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP families are viewed by the lawmakers you meet.