

Meet Your Legislator Day

What to do:

1. Find who your legislator(s) are and their contact information [by searching here](#).
2. Make an appointment: Request to speak to the legislator's aide and ask that your legislator attend **Meet Your Legislator Day** in the West Foyer on Feb. 12th to meet you and your family. If they cannot come during that time, make an appointment with them later that morning.
3. Come to the Capitol on Feb 12th. Meet in the West Foyer of the Capitol on the first floor at 8:00am.

What to say:

Find your legislator in the West Foyer and introduce yourself and your family.

1. Bring your children's artwork to give as a gift to the legislator to decorate their office and remind them of your family.
2. Tell them why you homeschool. (Your homeschool story)
 - i. Why you started homeschooling
 - ii. One favorite thing you've done as a homeschool family
 - iii. One thing you couldn't do if you weren't homeschooling
3. Offer them the CHEC handouts for their information. (We will provide this to you upon arrival)
4. Ask them how they feel about
 - i. Educational Choice
 - ii. Parental Rights
 - iii. Religious Liberty(If your children are willing, they can ask the questions)
5. Ask if you can pray for them about anything specific.
6. If you are comfortable praying right then, pray for them. If not, write down their request and pray for them later at home with your children.
7. Thank them for serving your family by representing you in the legislature. Tell them you appreciate them taking time out of their day to meet you.

Follow up with a family thank-you note and have all your children sign it.

Tips for Meeting with Legislators

Our goal is to put a positive face on homeschooling and express thanks to our legislators for serving.

It is important to develop personal communication with your government representatives. It **does** make a difference. They know that if you are taking the time to contact them, you will take the time to vote and encourage others to do the same.

Tips on Talking

- **Idea:** If your legislator(s) is planning to have a "Meet and Greet" in your district, this would be another forum to meet more locally with you.
- **Our Foundational Talking Point:** *Parents have the fundamental, unalienable right to direct the upbringing, care, and education of their children.*

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- **Graciousness:** We are friendly, not hostile. The majority of homeschoolers have chosen to homeschool because we want the best for our children.
- **Investment:** Remember that trust and relationships take time. Don't expect to "convince" during the first meeting. If this is your first meeting, view it as your introduction, your first impression.
- **Listening (and talking):**
 - **Be brief** – If you are asked questions about homeschooling, keep your answers brief and wait for more questions.
 - **Listen** to what the underlying concern behind a question may be. Don't assume you've guessed correctly – ask! "It sounds like you're concerned about____? Is that correct?" Then you can answer the real concern.
 - **Be Honest:** If you don't know the answer, let them know you've heard the question and ask if you can get back to them with more information. (Ex: "I haven't thought of – or – I'm not familiar with the issue you've raised. I'd like to do some research and get back to you on that.") Then follow up!
 - **Express appreciation:** Our legislators put in long hours and are rarely thanked! If they have taken the time to talk with you, or meet with you privately, please remember to thank them for that, regardless of whether or not you agree with their positions. A handwritten note is also appreciated because it has become a rarity.
- **Be Prayerful:** Most importantly, seek God's guidance and help, keeping in mind that, *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much"* (James 5:16).