

## **EFFECTIVE TELEPHONE CALLS**

Often there simply isn't enough time to write your legislators prior to a key vote. When you need to get in touch with your lawmakers immediately to let them know of your position your telephone calls can become the most effective means for you to communicate your views.

**Identify Yourself As A Constituent.** As someone who lives and votes in the district or state of the lawmaker you are contacting, your phone calls carry the most weight. Calls to representatives outside your district or state can be helpful as well. However, be sure to always contact your own legislators first.

**Realize you may not be able to speak directly with your elected official.** Remember to treat staff courteously and with respect.

**State Your Point Quickly And Clearly.** Be sure to limit your telephone call to one subject. Be brief but specific. Your phone call should last at most only a couple of minutes. State the reason you are calling, giving a brief description of the bill and bill number if possible. REMEMBER: ALWAYS BE COURTEOUS! Thank the person taking your call.