

# TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE CITIZEN LOBBYING

## Making your voice heard in the legislature

- »»» When possible, set up appointments in advance with your legislators.
- »»» Tell personal stories. Why is the issue important to you?
- »»» Do your homework. You should know the basic facts of the bill, the bill number, who the sponsors are, and where it is in the legislative process.
- »»» Always be more reasonable than our opponents. Stay calm, cool, respectful and firm.
- »»» Understand that your job is to educate lawmakers about issues and bills they may not be familiar with.
- »»» Ask directly for their support. “Will you vote for this bill?”
- »»» Say thank you, no matter his/her response, and send a note.
- »»» Write down what was said and share your notes with KFTC so we can track where we stand on each bill.
- ✘ Don’t make stuff up. If you don’t know the answer to a question, say that you will find out. Be sure to follow up!
- ✘ Don’t threaten lawmakers. Don’t make disrespectful statements. (Be hard on the issues, not the people.)
- ✘ Don’t assume that lawmakers know every bill or know what has happened recently to the bill you are concerned about.
- ✘ *Don’t get discouraged. You have every right to be heard. Your voice and perspective matter.*

**For more information, contact Kentuckians For The Commonwealth  
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