

CONNECTING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

Three Tips to Connecting with Your Elected Officials

Follow these tips to begin the process of building a relationship with your elected officials:

1

LEAVE YOUR PERSONAL POLITICS ASIDE!

You may not have voted for or agree with your elected officials' views. That is fine. Regardless of your feelings toward their politics, it is your representative's and senators' job to represent you – their constituents - on Capitol Hill.

When approaching any discussions with your legislators or their staff, put your political views aside and share your concerns in a polite manner. Always make it a point to thank your elected officials for their service to your community.

2

BECOME A RECOGNIZABLE NAME AND FACE.

Local Political Offices:

- Begin by building a relationship with the local office staff of your elected officials.
- Stop in and introduce yourself. Be respectful of their time.
- Explain your business's services and what you do for the customers you serve.
- List the legislative pieces that are important to your business (H.R.1370/S.562).
- Ask staff members to coordinate a visit from the elected official when they are in the area.

District and D.C. Staff:

- After getting to know the local office staff, politely ask to be connected to the district staff.
- Make it a goal to connect with D.C. staff once every few months to keep your priorities fresh in their minds.

3

TRY, TRY AGAIN.

Be persistent. In the event that you do not get a response or their schedule is too full to get a meeting, do not be discouraged. Keep trying to connect.

Be polite. Leaving a positive impression will get you much further in building strong relationships with the staff.

Advocacy Assistance

If you want more information on how to get involved, or how to connect with your elected officials, or just don't know where to start, contact Essentially Women at essentiallywomen@vgm.com

