

AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

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What to Do When You Meet with Your Legislator

- Introduce yourself and identify yourself as a constituent.
- Be gracious, attentive, and organized. Show genuine consideration.
- Briefly tell the lawmaker why you have come to the state capitol to talk with her/him.
 - **In your own words, state why HIV/AIDS issues are important to you.**
- Define the issues and link them to your life. Talk about why funding HIV prevention, care, and treatment services are important to you. Communicate your unique story as a service consumer, provider, family member, friend, or concerned citizen.
 - **Your individual story has more impact than any factsheet ever can. No one can speak more eloquently about how these issues affect your life better than you can. Just be yourself!**
- Ask your legislators if you can count on their support for these initiatives. Wait for the answer. Don't leave without a commitment!
- Say "I don't know" if you are unsure of the answer to a question you are asked. Offer to find out and then follow up with your legislator.
- Thank the lawmaker for meeting with you.
- Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!
- Write a thank-you note and place a phone call to learn how he/she voted.

CREATING HOPE THROUGH ACTION

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