5 TIPS FOR TALKING WITH YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

01 TELL THEM YOU ARE A CONSTITUENT
Legislators get a lot of e-mails and phone calls. If you’re their constituent be sure to let them know. Legislators want to know who they are communicating with and should be prioritizing people in their district. It should be the first thing you say in your communication with your legislators so they know you are someone they represent. An example would be:

Good afternoon, Representative Smith,
My name is Jane and I am a constituent from your district. I am contacting you today about….

02 WHAT BILL YOUR ARE TALKING ABOUT
If you are contacting your legislator about a specific bill, provide them with the bill number, but also provide them with some details about what the bill. Legislators hear a lot of bills and might not always have all the information about the legislation you are talking about. Provide them some context to set the stage for your ask.

03 BE AUTHENTIC
Share your story. Especially if you have been impacted by the issue or legislation. Advocating for funding for homelessness services is going to be more impactful if you can share personal stories about working with people experiencing homelessness, or sharing your own experience with homelessness rather than just statistics. Statistics are important, but the more you can personalize your ask, the more impact it will have.

04 MAKE THE ASK
Be clear in what you are asking your Legislator to do. If you want them to vote no on a bill, say “Please vote no on HB 2XXX” It is much easier for them if they know what you are asking of them as a constituent.

05 THANKS
Legislators get yelled at a lot for what they do, but they don’t often get thanked. Did your Representative or Senator vote the way you wanted them to? Thank them. Let them know you appreciate their stance on a certain bill. This shows your appreciation for them taking action, and continues to build a relationship with your lawmaker.