



## Visit Your Representative and Senator's Offices

*Call their office and make an appointment to meet with their staff. They will ask what you'd like to discuss and for your complete contact information. Be prepared with this information.*

### Basics:

1. Dress professionally, as though you were going to church or an interview for an office job, and arrive 5-10 minutes early.
2. Have your talking points and notes prepared, including handouts or resources to leave with the office.
3. Consider and ask about some of the concerns your legislator may have regarding the specific type of marijuana legalization you are going to discuss. Have counterpoints to common misconceptions in your back pocket in case they are brought forth. If you do not have the knowledge or resources to address your legislator's concern, please make note of their concern, do research on the subject, and follow up. If you say you will follow up with info, you must do so!

### Etiquette Guidelines:

#### **Always**

1. Be courteous and respectful (without gushing).
2. Clearly and simply state the purpose of your visit. If it's about a certain bill, identify it correctly.
3. Use specific examples, a personal story, and evidence to support your position.
4. Represent yourself as a voter and constituent of the district, not as a representative of NORML or any other organization. You want your message to count individually.
5. State what you want done, or recommend a course of action.
6. Thank the member or their staff for taking the time to meet with you.
7. When addressing your legislator, address them as "Representative/Senator Last Name."

#### **Never**

1. Use vulgarity, profanity, or threats. The first two are just plain rude, and the third one can get you a visit from the Secret Service. Simply stated, don't let your passion get in the way of making your point.
2. Say that you will follow up with information and fail to do so. This shows a lack of reliability.