

I want to make legislative change!

But I have no idea how to start....

What do you care about?

Step 1

Issue of Interest:

Why does it matter?

Why should someone listen to you about it?

What are some (achievable) solutions?

These legislators get the first say on the policies pertaining to their committee. They create, sponsor, and vote on bills before they make it on House/Senate Floors.

Committee Members

Bills & Committees

Your District Legislators

How are South Dakota's policies involved??

Step 3

How are you going to influence??

Step 2

You are their constituent- they represent YOU. Identify a piece of legislation, share your POV, and tell them how you expect them to vote on the House or Senate Floor.

Talking tips

- Relax! Just another human
- Show your personality, crack jokes, reach their heart (if possible)
- Be kind, duh
- Make space for their response, listen & learn

Plan of Action

Suggested Action Items

Organize talking points & create speech outline

Practice w/ someone & take criticism

Plan meeting strategy

Connect (email/call)

Prepare questions

Send follow-up email

There are several ways to talk to your legislator face to face: schedule a sit-down/meeting (be flexible!) OR meet them at a legislative coffee!

Outline tips



Talk about more than 1 topic
Ramble/rant
Dump lots of facts & statistics



Conversational talk
Make it personal & relatable
Present clear requests