



Calling Legislators

There are times when you need to get in touch with a lawmaker immediately, and you don't have time to write a letter or even draft an e-mail. That's a good time to use the most effective and common method of communicating with your legislator--making a phone call.

Be clear and brief: begin the call by making it clear that you are a constituent of theirs: "My name is Jane Doe, and I live in Dothan." Limit the call to one issue and be specific about why you are calling, what bill you are calling about (stating the bill number, if possible), what action you would like your Legislator to take on this issue, and ask where your Legislator stands on the issue. "My name is Jane Doe, and I live in Dothan. I'm calling about House bill number 364, a bill that would strengthen Alabama's child restraint law. The current law does not protect children in the four to eight year old age group, who are not protected by adult seat belts. This law would provide for the use of booster seats, which have been shown to significantly lower injury and death rates in other states. [If talking to a staff member:] I would like to see Representative Jones support bill 364. Can you please tell me where he stands on this issue?"

Request a response: Regardless of your legislator's stand on an issue, never use abusive language or threaten them in any way. If the policymaker does not support the bill you are calling about, kindly let him/her know that you are disappointed in his/her position. If you are speaking to someone in the office and they do not know the lawmaker's position on a specific issue, be sure to ask them for a written response once they have had an opportunity to look at the issue more closely. "I'm disappointed to hear that Representative Jones does not support House bill 364. Strengthening Alabama's child restraint law is critical in protecting our children from injury, not to mention saving our state millions of rehabilitation dollars, but I appreciate your time."

To make a phone call, contact the following numbers:
During the General Session of the Alabama Legislature,
Representatives may be contacted by calling (334) 242-7600;
Senators may be contacted by calling (334) 242-7800.