

Legislative Subcommittee Report

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Many of us are glad that the elections are over. Why? So that we do not have to listen to the negative campaign advertisements through the media, whether on television, radio or newsprint. Voting is only one aspect of being a good citizen.

With elections now over, we need to move forward and work with our federal and state legislators to inform them about your concerns about issues, whether right to life, abortion, mining, gun control, etc. The following tips are from the USCCB website on how best to communicate with them.

DO

- Identify clearly the subject matter of interest (not just the House or Senate Bill #).
- State why you are concerned about an issue(s). Draw on personal experience.
- Restrict yourself to one or two topics and concentrate your arguments.
- Communicate while legislation is in committee and subcommittees where legislators have more influence over the legislation.
- Establish a relationship with your elected officials as an individual constituent.

DON'T

- Be star struck – resist temptation to be wowed by a legislator.
- Threaten – but present best argument in favor of your position.
- Pretend to yield vast political influence.
- Become a pen pal or infomercial for their office

Mark your calendars for Catholics at the Capitol April 18. The Wisconsin Catholic Conference convenes this conference in the spring of each new legislative session (odd-numbered years). The day consists of a prayer session, keynote speaker, breakout sessions, and an afternoon general session. After workshops, attendees can visit their legislators in the Capitol.

I encourage you to set the following links as your favorites so you can keep up-to-date on legislative issues.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference:

<http://www.wisconsinatholic.co>

United State Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/index.cfm>

Catholic Mobilizing Network:

<http://catholicmobilizing.org/about/>

Wisconsin Legislature: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>