



Advocacy – It Works!

You are an expert when it comes to your loved one.

- You don't need to be an expert in the topic
- The legislators work for YOU
- Legislators WANT to hear from you

It is important to continually be educating yourself and the community, but you don't need to know everything to advocate.

- It's common to feel afraid or apprehensive
- It's not unusual to feel overwhelmed by the material
- It's "ok" to not know everything and all the details
- Working in pairs or a small group is fine
- See MNFAC "Resources" handout, follow the links
- Refer to MNFAC Facebook page for the latest information

Advocating

Effective Means of Communication

- Email
- Letter
- Phone call to the Assistant
- Meeting

Basic considerations & understanding

- Non-adversarial – the tone should be educating
- Use an engaging picture of your loved one to personalize your story
- Your story should be short (1page), personal, and include an action for the legislative person
 - 7 Things Your Letter Should Include:
 1. A picture
 2. Your name and complete address with zip code
 3. A little bit about who you and your child are
 4. What the issue or problem is
 5. Why it's a problem. What happens
 6. The ask. What do you want them to do
 7. Thank them

Follow-up

- Always send a personal thank you by email or preferably a handwritten message. Include your address with zip code and email on all correspondence.