

Hints for Your Lobbying Efforts

1. If you meet with the member personally be sure to make local contact ASAP- Legislators are interested in their constituents- be clear that you are a constituent as well as a member of local government in his/her district and spend a few minutes making a local connection
 - We met at such and such event
 - We know the same people
 - County Exec or Supervisor etc sends his/her regards etc.
2. If you meet with a staff person- be clear that you identify yourself as a **commissioner** from the member's district. That you are disappointed that you did not get to meet the member directly and emphasize the local connection. *"Be sure to tell the member that xxx wanted me to extend their regards"* etc.
3. In either case make it clear that you are here representing both your local community and the NYS State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors. We are all of the commissioners of mental hygiene in all of the counties of the state and the City of NY. We know about and represent the interests of mental hygiene statewide.
4. Start in on the points ASAP- you will only have 15 minutes or so. Make it clear that we have 4 points we want to leave with them and make sure you hit all four.
5. Keep on point- time will go quickly and you can't get into too much detail on any one point or you will not finish.
6. At the end thank them for their time. If you are seeing the member, ask directly for their commitment. There are two ways to do this- Preferably after each point is raised ask "Can I depend on you to support this position both to your leadership and to vote for it" or at the end ask the member their position on the items and ask if you can depend on their support.
7. If you are meeting rank and file members, you want them to RAISE this issue with their LEADERSHIP (either side) and to speak in favor of them in their conferences. We want these positions to be agreed upon by as many people as possible so they have to know about them. If your member is in leadership ask that they raise these points in conference and indicate their support.
8. If you are meeting with staff and desire to do so you might get them to have the member commit to a meeting with them at their district office to follow-up with them on these issues.
9. In either case if you see some interest and they want more information you can suggest they contact Jeremy directly for more information (his email address is on the materials) or put this in your evaluation and let us know to contact them.