

# How to Talk to Your Legislator

*UPEA members should make an effort to elect public employee friendly legislators and elected officials. Public employees are directly affected by the decisions made by elected officials such as: compensation, retirement, health care, job security, and working conditions.*

*Timing is critical. Contact your legislator prior to the Legislative Session; introduce yourself as a public employee and a constituent. When issues do occur maintain contact with your legislator. UPEA will provide updates on issues.*

| Call   | Write or E-mail  |
|--|--|
| <p>A simple telephone call to your legislator can go a long way. Here are some tips for success:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. List the points you would like to discuss <i>before</i> making the call.</li><li>2. Identify yourself and include your full name, where you work, and that you are a constituent in their legislative district.</li><li>3. Be professional and polite.</li><li>4. Include specific information about your request or position on a bill.</li><li>5. Thank your legislator for their time.</li></ol> <p>Legislators can be reached at the following numbers:<br/>House of Representatives: (801) 538-1029<br/>Senate: (801) 538-1035.</p> <p>Find your legislator at:<br/><a href="http://www.le.state.ut.us/maps/amap.html">http://www.le.state.ut.us/maps/amap.html</a></p> | <p>Take the time to express your opinion in writing by following these simple steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Make the letter personal.</li><li>2. Use the proper address and greeting such as "Dear Representative Doe."</li><li>3. Identify yourself and include your full name, address, and phone number, this information lets the legislator know you are a constituent. In an e-mail message identify the topic you want to discuss in the subject line such as the bill number.</li><li>4. Be brief and keep the letter short and to the point. Be direct and ask for a specific action or vote and offer to answer any questions regarding your position.</li><li>5. Thank your legislator and follow up your letter or e-mail with a quick note after the issue or bill has been discussed or voted upon. A letter of thanks will be remembered and appreciated.</li></ol> |

*When contacting a legislator use a personal e-mail address or telephone number on your own time.*

## What Else Can I Do As a Public Employee?

1. Join UPEA. A unified voice is a strong voice. More members mean a stronger voice.
2. Educate yourself. Learn about issues and what they mean to you. Create a relationship with your legislator and the bill or issues you want to discuss. Visit [www.upea.net](http://www.upea.net) and click on the issues tab for more information.
3. Contact your legislator. Be courteous, concise, and consistent.
4. Spread the word. Talk to family, friends, and co-workers. Ask them to contact their legislators. Use radio "call-in" shows, letters to the editor, and/or guest editorials to show how issues affect you as a public employee and an individual citizen.

# Following the key points from the previous page, below is a sample letter for a legislator.

January 1, 2009

Representative/Senator John D.  
1111 Public Employee St.  
Salt Lake City, UT 8412

**State who you are.**

**Include bill # and short title.**

Dear Representative/Senator Doe:

As your constituent and a public employee, I would like to express my concern regarding HB 000 – “Name of Bill”. I oppose this bill because it will negatively impact my employment and benefits as a public employee. The bill raises the following items of concern:

1. Upon retirement, this bill will reduce my ability to maintain health insurance, as I have medical conditions that make purchasing health insurance very expensive.
2. I have foregone pay raises in the past to help establish and maintain this benefit.

**State your position.**

I would truly appreciate your opposition to this bill. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue with me, I will be happy to supply you with additional information.

Sincerely,

**Thank them for their potential support. Let them know you are available for follow-up.**

Joe Employee  
1234 State Work  
Salt Lake City, UT  
(801) 264-8732  
jemployee@yahoo.net

**Include your name, home address, and contact info.**

UPEA relies on its members to enact change. You can take a direct role in your employment by staying up on the issues. UPEA works hard to bring you relevant, up-to-date information about the issues that affect your employment. To find out more, visit [www.uepa.net](http://www.uepa.net).