



# Lobbying *Tips*

## **In-District and Local Visits with Legislators**

Your voice is a powerful and effective tool in influencing your members of the California Legislature. While CFT has Lobby Days in Sacramento, lobbying your legislator when they are in their communities is an effective tool for influencing your elected officials.

### **Why should I participate in local in-district lobbying?**

- Educators are respected leaders in their communities and should leverage that standing with elected officials.
- When elected officials are in-district, they are more open to talking and meeting with members of their community.
- Public schools are the cornerstone of successful communities. As an educator, you represent the public education system and are an effective voice in advocating for sound policies that will improve our schools.

### **How do I contact my legislator?**

- Use the Senate and Assembly Rosters on the CFT website or contact the CFT Legislative Department to request a Senate and Assembly Roster.
- Call or email your legislator and request a meeting with them and/or their staff. These meetings or calls can be taken individually or with a group of members.

### **What do I do once I have scheduled a meeting or call with my legislator?**

- Contact the CFT Legislative Department to receive current CFT talking points on key legislation.
- If your legislator is willing to have a group meeting, recruit colleagues from your local union within your Assembly or Senate district to join you.

### **What do I do once I have completed the meeting?**

- Send the legislator(s) a thank you note by mail or by email. Send a thank you note to any other CFT members or any other individuals who joined you for the meeting.
- Fill out a CFT Lobbying Report and return it to the CFT Legislative Department.

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