

# Calling Your Elected Officials

Speaking with your elected officials on the phone is relatively uncommon and more often you will be speaking to a staff member. Calling about a specific issue is important since staff members record the types of issues and specific requests that are received from constituents and provide a report to your elected officials daily. When you are calling an elected official's office you want to keep the call short and to the point by following these easy steps:

1. Introduce yourself as a constituent (they will probably ask for your name and address)
2. Plainly state your ask, "I am calling to ask the Senator/Representative to support HR XXXX" because it will \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Thank them for their time and conclude

Visit the Action Center to get the phone number of your elected officials' offices. Check out individual action alerts for talking points to help you make the phone call. Help your family and friends make similar calls since volume does matter!

**When speaking directly to an elected official use follow these rules of thumb:**

## Make A Script

- Jot down some talking points before you make the call so you have facts and statistics ready
- Clearly state your ask "I would like you to support HR 460, the Patient Access to Treatments Act, because..."
- Keep the conversation short, 5-10 minutes max

## Make It Personal

- Identify yourself as a constituent and as a member of the COPD community
- Use your story and experiences to support your ask
- Support your ask with statistics, personal experience, and background info

## Follow Up

- Take notes throughout the conversation to reference later
- After the call write a quick thank you letter summarizing what was discussed and thanking the official for their time
- Provide your contact information and any additional info that may have been requested