



**But I've Never
Done This Before...**

Tips on How to Lobby

- 1) Research your legislator.**
Know her/his history. **Before you arrive**, know her/his position on issues related to the ones you plan to discuss and try to get her/his voting record on pertinent bills.
- 2) Review your arguments.**
Keep them short and simple. Don't filibuster; just give the facts. If you don't feel comfortable talking about the facts, talk about your own experiences and discuss how a particular bill will affect you and your family.
- 3) Bring local data to support your arguments.**
The data should be relevant to your legislator's district and key constituencies. Let her/him know you are available as a resource and that you are watching.
- 4) Focus on the key issues.**
Don't arrive with a grocery list. When you have talked about the issues you wanted to discuss, wind up the meeting. Leave on good terms, even if the session was not fruitful.
- 5) Listen carefully.**
Politicians tend to speak generally, avoid the issues and/or go off on tangents. Try to draw out specific answers to your questions.
- 6) If your legislator is not available, do not leave.**
Talk with a staff member. Be sure to record the names of the staff members who are present or to whom you are introduced.
- 7) Make notes about your meeting.**
Immediately after the meeting, write down what was discussed and any action your legislator agreed to take.
- 8) Send a "thank you" to your legislator.**
Follow up the meeting with a thank-you letter that summarizes your understanding of what your legislator has agreed to do. Remind her/him that you are available as a resource.
- 9) Send a separate "thank you" to staff.**
Send separate notes to the staff member(s) you met and make a point to keep in touch with them.
- 10) Keep your state coalition informed of your efforts.**

– Submitted by Pennsylvania Coalition
Against Domestic Violence