

# HOW TO TELL YOUR PERSONAL STORIES IN SHORT RALLY REMARKS



## MEETING PREP

### Do your research on the legislator you will be speaking to

- What is their position on the issue you're advocating for? What does their district look like? What are the main concerns in their district? What is their position in the legislature? i.e., what committees and/or task forces are they a part of? what party do they belong to?

All of this information will help you have a broader scope on the elected you are meeting with and make it easier to connect with them and see where your asks can be addressed through the legislature.

## KNOW YOUR STORY AND ORGANIZATION



Your story as a Human Service worker is immensely important. The legislature counted on you as Essential workers during the toughest of times and continues to do so. Remind your elected of the support you gave to your community and how the State/City has yet to fully address the lack of investment in our frontline defense, our human service workers. Your organization adds a second level of credibility to your demands, remember to highlight the organized work of your organization has done around this issue.

## KNOW YOUR ISSUE

Bring talking points with data. Talk about the impacts and struggles you've experienced from underfunding and how this affects other constituents in the community you serve as well as your work. To be honest, if you don't know the answer to a question, let the elected know you'll get back to them on it, this creates a second avenue to continue the conversation after the meeting.



## YOUR STORY

Introduce yourself as a constituent, what you work in and how this work helps your community. Explain the main issues that you face in the workplace and how they bleed into your personal life. Remember to highlight that the services you offer make your electeds community safer and richer in resources; without the proper funding for these programs, your communities will fall. Remind your elected that it is also their community, not just yours, and you'd love to collaborate on addressing this issue. This is the moment you would **make your ask**, making your ask is reinstating the legislation you support and why it would help this issue affect 1000's of Human Services Workers. The more personal you can make it to yourself, and the more grounded in the district, the better.





# HOW TO LOBBY YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

CONTINUED

## MEETING WITH YOUR ELECTED

- Remember to be concise.
- Electeds can meet with hundreds of people a day, your meeting might not be the longest, so remember to be focused on your story and the legislation that will alleviate these issues. Be repetitive.
- Remind your elected that this is an organized effort and your community is paying attention.
- Provide local examples of how the legislation will impact your community.
- Make your ask and put pressure on an action plan to see these changes take place.
- Provide materials with your asks, and the date that supports those asks i.e., when this legislation needs to pass, emulate the urgency of the ask.

## FOLLOW UP

- Remember to thank your legislator and staffers for meeting with you.
- Pay attention to their following votes and reach out! Having a connection with an elected official can be formed in different ways! I.e., Email/phone their Leg. Director, District director.



## THINK WIN-WIN

- Be kind to staffers, staffers play a huge role in legislation. If an issue is constantly being brought up to a staffer, the elected is more likely to address it. They are also the ones doing most of the background work, having good relationships with staffers will aid your agenda.
- Tell them your story in your own voice, remember your voice holds weight as their constituent.
- Know your allies and highlight their work as well on the same issue, strength comes in numbers.

## REMEMBER

**Elected officials are members of your community that are tasked with representing your interests. Make sure your voice is heard, and your elected is amplifying your voice and the main concerns of your community.**



**HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK**



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