



## 10 Tips for Talking to a Legislator or Legislative Staff on Youth Advocacy Day

1. **BEFORE** your Advocacy in Action meeting, **PLAN** your meeting – See the other side of this sheet for an easy template!
  - ✓ You will have 15 minutes or less to meet with the legislator or their staff, so planning is crucial.
2. **At the meeting, introduce your group and yourself!**
  - ✓ If you live in that legislator's district, let them know!
3. **Start with a “thank you”** to the legislator or their staff member for making time to meet with you.
4. **[If relevant] Thank the legislator or their staff member for their support** of the issues you are talking about today. Check your face sheet for specific ways they have been supportive:
  - ✓ Has this legislator been a Mockingbird **ally or champion** in the past?
  - ✓ **Did they speak** at our morning program?
  - ✓ Are they planning on speaking to our group during our **Virtual Youth Advocacy Day**?
  - ✓ Is this legislator a **sponsor or co-sponsor** of a bill on our priority agenda?
5. **Know your budget requests, bills, and the facts.** Rely on the **Talking Points** document and fact sheets in this packet for guidance.
  - ✓ **Reminder:** the legislator or staff you are meeting with may know a LOT or NOTHING AT ALL about the issue. **You are there to provide information and be a good listener** if they have questions or feedback.
  - ✓ If a legislator or staff asks you a question and you don't know the answer, just tell them you will get back to them.
  - ✓ **Group Lead:** Please write any questions raised by legislators down and give to TMS Staff at the end of the day.
6. **Share how the TMS Agenda items will affect you personally!** If you or someone in your group can speak about their experience, you can provide powerful information about being a young person who:
  - ✓ Has been part of a MOCKINGBIRD constellation!
  - ✓ Has experienced homelessness as a minor and could have benefited from transitional housing
  - ✓ Navigated the process of getting state ID while experiencing homelessness
  - ✓ Could have benefited from community services instead of detention for running away or truancy.
7. **Be a good listener!** After you talk about our priorities and your personal stories, allow the legislator/staff to respond, and listen respectfully to them.
8. **Be honest!!** If you don't know the answer to a question, **DON'T MAKE IT UP!**
9. **Ask for a COMMITMENT!** Ask the legislator or staff for their support on our priorities. Look at the **Talking Points** document for guidance on what “asks” to make on each issue!
10. **GRATITUDE!** Thank the legislator or staff member for their time.



## 2023 Youth Advocacy Day Meeting Agenda Template

**Group Leads:** please use the template below to help plan your meeting and assign roles!

**You will have 5-15 minutes for your meeting, so a good plan will help use the time most effectively.**

**Tip:** it is better to cover a couple issues more deeply than skim over every one. Based on experience and interests of your group, you may decide to focus on fewer issues than outlined here.

Time	Item	Who will lead this section? Write Comment about the meeting
____min	<b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thank you</li><li>• We are here for Youth Advocacy Day</li><li>• Invite group members to introduce themselves &amp; share pronouns (if comfortable).</li></ul>	
____min	<b>SB 5230: Extended Foster Care</b> <b>Champion: Senator Wilson</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What the issue is</li><li>• Personal connection</li><li>• Ask for support</li></ul>	
____min	<b>Limiting Access to Juvenile Records</b> <b>Champion: Senator Frame</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What the issue is</li><li>• Personal connection</li><li>• Ask for support</li></ul>	
____min	<b>SB 5591: Financial Capability for Youth in Foster Care</b> <b>Champion: Senator Nobles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What the issue is</li><li>• Personal connection</li><li>• Ask for support</li></ul>	
____min	<b>START</b> <b>Champion: TBD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What the issue is</li><li>• Personal connection</li></ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ask for support</i></li></ul>	
____ min	<b>HB 1406: Youth Seeking Shelter &amp; Services</b> <b>Champion: Representative Cortes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What the issue is</i></li><li>• <i>Personal connection</i></li></ul>	
____ min	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Restate any commitments for support</i></li><li>• <i>Thank you for your time</i></li><li>• <i>Here is a copy of our advocacy agenda (email one-pager)</i></li></ul>	

### After your meeting

**Group Lead:** please fill out the **Advocacy in Action Feedback Form** to note any questions or concerns that arose in the meeting. Turn that in with surveys and other materials at lunch!

**Refer to your packet for what to do if you have time before the rally starts!**