



A Pennsylvania Affiliate of CAPE (Council of American Private Education)

## Call Your Representative

Picking up the phone and calling your legislators may be the easiest and quickest way to share your opinion. **Don't hesitate to call. Remember that your legislator wants to represent the needs of his or her district.** By conveying your interests to your legislator, he or she has a better understanding of how to serve the needs of their constituency. Calling your legislators is also the easiest way to schedule an appointment in their district office. If you're nervous about making this phone call and would like some assistance in preparing, please contact us and we can help you.

### During Your Call

- **Identify yourself.** When you contact the office, be sure to tell the person answering the phone that you are a *constituent*. Legislative offices get hundreds of phone calls a day. As a constituent, you should receive priority attention.
- **Make contact with the right person.** Remember that telephone calls are often taken by a staff member, not the legislator. Ask to speak or leave a message with the aide who handles the issue on which you wish to comment.
- **Leave a brief message.** After identifying yourself, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message for the legislator, such as: "Please tell Representative \_\_\_\_\_ that I support Religious Liberty Protection for Early Education Centers (PA House HB 1588 and Senate Bill SB 1030)"
- **State your reasons concisely.** Be prepared to explain your support or opposition to the bill in one or two sentences. Here is an example . . .
  - While I support educational and health safety for my child, this legislation helps ensure that government agencies does not over extend into the religious elements of child rearing by parents and religious institutions.  
(Note: You can learn more about religious liberty protection legislation at <http://www.acsipa.org/node/110>)
- **Learn your representative's stance.** Ask for your Representative's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call.
- **Thank your representative for their support and/or time.** Remember to THANK them and/or date/time! Legislator's assistants are your best friend when it comes to communicating with legislators.

### Sample Phone "Scripts" for Making a Phone Call to Legislators

The following sample script can be used as a guide for calling your legislators about Senate Bill 1.

Hi. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live at/in \_\_\_\_\_. I am a constituent of Representative \_\_\_\_\_. Is there someone in your office I can talk to about Religious Liberty Protection for Early Education Centers (PA House HB 1588 and Senate Bill SB 1030)

I am calling today to ask for the Representative's support of legislation for Religious Liberty Protection for Early Education Centers. This bill will help low-income and moderate income families like myself and my neighbors to choose an education that we feel best meets the needs of our children.

OR

Can I make an appointment to meet with the Representative or a staff member in person to discuss Religious Liberty Protection for Early Education Centers (PA House HB 1588 and Senate Bill SB 1030) further?

Thanks again, and I really appreciate your time and consideration.

*Note: if you are leaving a message on an answering machine, make sure to clearly state your name and phone number or email address.*