COMMUNICATING WITH NH LEGISLATORS

Legislator contact information is usually the legislator’s home phone and address. NHHA will provide all contact information for Representatives and Senators for each hospital service area. We will also provide listings of relevant House and Senate committee members for each advocacy issue. Contact information for legislators can also be found at:

For Representatives: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/housemembers.html
For Senators: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/members/senate_roster.aspx

Phone Calls
Members of the House of Representatives expect to hear from constituents at home, and most often in the evening or weekends when they are at home. Senators can be reached either at their Senate offices or at their homes.

Your call should be brief and to the point. Here are a few pointers:
✓ Introduce yourself by name and the organization which you represent
✓ Ask if they have a few minutes to speak with you about the legislation (offer the bill number, along with the topic).
✓ Be courteous and concise. One or two talking points will focus the content of your message.
✓ Always thank them for their time and consideration of your concerns.

Letters and E-mails
The letter or e-mail is a direct way to communicate with a state legislator. Though NHHA will provide a template letter from time to time depending on the advocacy issue, individually written letters make a greater impression on your legislator.

Your purpose for writing should be stated in the first paragraph of the letter or e-mail. Be sure to identify the bill’s full title and number, e.g. HB ____ or SB____. State your position. Explain why you support or oppose this particular bill. Keep in mind that local examples concerning the impact of this legislation are very powerful.

Follow up. If you agree with your legislator’s vote, take the time to let him/her know.

➤ You have a valued voice in supporting New Hampshire’s hospitals

The New Hampshire lobbying law (RSA 15) does not prohibit anyone, including hospital employees, from speaking with legislators (either members of the House of Representatives or Senators) about proposed legislation. Hospital employees may engage in discussions with legislators about any pending legislation that impacts hospitals such as the State Medicaid budget, quality of care, CON, etc.

In contrast, a “lobbyist” is an individual employed to spend a substantial part of his/her time promoting or opposing legislation, regulations, or contracts with the State of New Hampshire. Lobbyists are required to register with the state as lobbyists and are subject to certain reporting requirements.