

## Suggestions for building a relationship with your MI Legislators

1. Access who your House of Representative legislator is by clicking on [http://www.house.mi.gov/find\\_a\\_rep.asp](http://www.house.mi.gov/find_a_rep.asp) and select district number or county you live in and your zip code.
2. Access to your state senator by clicking onto <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/SenatorInfo/find-your-senator.htm> and use one of the 4 options for locating your state senator
3. Please consider calling to make an appointment to introduce yourself to your Representative or one of their aides (either is fine)
4. At the first meeting, share with them who you are and in general the importance of Advance Practice Nurses and how they impact health care. Additional visits may be used to focus on talking points to discuss the upcoming bill. Be concise, well organized and mindful of their time. Consider having the conversation over coffee. Be persistent
5. If you know of CNS's colleagues in the same area, consider organizing a larger coffee group.
6. If information is requested ahead of the meeting, send the tool kit provided.
7. Consider how you may be helpful with their next campaign.
8. If you are unable to meet, consider writing to introduce yourself and the importance of APRNs and talking points regarding a bill soon to be introduced.

### Gary Hymel's 10 rules for working with Legislative Staff:

- Keep it short-both your message and the visit
- Know the arguments on the other side (myth and fact sheet)
- Document your position, prepare a summary and leave it with the staffers (tool kit)
- Never threaten
- If you see a member alone, make sure you follow up with a staffer
- Tell them why the legislator might be interested in your position from a local or issue related point of view
- If you have allies...tell them who (confirmed stakeholders list)
- If they agree with your position, leave soon
- Always say please and thank you (manners)