



Your Voice – Your Vote – Your Future

Electoral Advocacy – Impacting Public Policy

Legislators are citizens, just like you. Have confidence that the perspective and experience of parents and/or professionals working with children with disabilities or special health needs are needed and welcomed by legislators.

Your personal story IS powerful and may make the difference when a final vote is taken.

State Level Advocacy

How can I stay informed?

Sign up for free legislative updates from South Dakota COALITION of Citizens with Disabilities. Please contact Shelly Pfaff at 605-945-2207, 1-800-210-0143 or shellyp@sd-ccd.org to sign up for these free e-updates.

Track bills of interest, listen to committee meetings, receive email alerts and more at Legislative Research Council. <http://legis.state.sd.us>

How do I reach out to my legislators?

- Contact legislators by email, phone, fax, letter or in-person. The SD Legislative Research Council (LRC) website lists complete contact information for every legislator and allows you to directly email them from their site:
<http://legis.sd.gov/Legislators/Legislators/default.aspx?CurrentSession=True>
- Legislator FAX (Session Only): 605-773-6806. FAX must be addressed to a specific legislator.
- Attend crackerbarrels or legislative coffees in your home community. Visit the COALITION website at <http://www.sd-ccd.org/home/advocacy/> for information these types of events.

How can I effectively connect with my legislators?

- **Identify yourself** by name, complete address, and district so they understand you are a constituent. Include a phone number; your legislator may want clarification or further information on the issue you've addressed and/or regarding your family story.
- **Be specific**, concise and polite in your communications.
- **Keep it simple**. Identify your most important point(s) about the issue and stay on topic. Know and understand the issue and/or bills you will be addressing.
- **Personalize** your point with a story to put a face to the issue; keep the story brief.
- **Thank** legislators for their time and attention.

How can I find out who my legislators are, what district I live in, and if I am registered to vote?

Visit the Legislative Research Council's **Find My Legislator Page**
http://legis.sd.gov/Legislators/Who_Are_My_Legislators/default.aspx?Session=2014

To determine what district you live in, contact your local county auditor. A list of county auditors with phone numbers can be found at <http://sdsos.gov/contact-us/county-auditors.aspx>

Visit the South Dakota Secretary of State Voter Information Portal at <https://sos.sd.gov/Elections/VIPLLogin.aspx> to find your voter registration information and sample ballot for any upcoming primary and general elections.

If you are not registered to vote or have moved, find instructions and forms at:
<http://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/register-to-vote/default.aspx>

National Advocacy

How can I stay informed?

Sign up for Family Voices' Washington DC Update, a free weekly e-newsletter that shares news affecting families of children/youth with special health care needs. Sign up at http://www.familyvoices.org/action/keep_informed

How do I contact my congressional delegates?

Senator John Thune Online: <http://thune.senate.gov/public/>
Toll Free: 1-866-850-3855 FAX: 1-202-228-5429

Senator Michael Rounds Online: <http://rounds.senate.gov/>
Phone: 1-202-224-5842

Representative Kristi Noem Online: <http://noem.house.gov/>
Phone: 1-855-225-2801 FAX: 1-202-225-5823