Follow the Issue to a Conclusion

Study and analyze. Study your views most when a bill is up for a second reading or a formal introduction. The legislator will likely have been more informed than you are if you are aware of the important issues and the legislators' positions on them. Offer to provide additional information.

Write a letter. Write a letter in support of your interests. Ask your legislator to enter a statement into the record which expresses your position. It is possible to provide additional evidence of support for your position. Smaller, more personal letters may be more effective.

Use your own thoughts and words. Use your own words. Do not quote others. Add your own thoughts and experiences. Be polite and clear. Do not use profanity or threats.

Submit your position with a concise and self-contained statement of your position or your community's position. Send your letter to your elected officials. Include your name, address, and when you were born. Include your personal experience that is relevant to the issue. Include where you live. Include your family's letters. Include the issue that is most important to you. Include your position.
The Ohio Nurses Association

Writing Your Legislator:

Before you begin:
- Become more familiar with the issues that affect nurses and the public.
- Consider your personal experience and knowledge.
- Decide which issue is most important to you.

In your legislative letter writing:
- A written record for future reference.
- Letter has a direct audience of being informed of local conditions that might be the subject of legislative action.
- Nonpartisan, informative, and personal.
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The suggestions outlined in this article are good examples of how to convey your views to your legislator. It is important to convey your views in a public service of the profession. You are responsible for constituent services. As a professional, you should know that registered nurses are part of their respective state associations.

To begin:
- Address your letter to the representative or senator.
- Include your name and address.
- Include your occupation or affiliation, if a registered nurse.
- Include your views on the issues discussed.
- Use the correct name, address, and title of the legislator.

The Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, OH 43215
Dear Representative:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent legislative proposals that would...