



FAITH Guides: Writing To Your Representative

Writing to your representative at the city, county or state level is a good way to express your concern and advocate for a particular solution.

Prepare for the letter

- If you are writing about a specific piece of legislation, try to find out as much information about the issue and the legislation as possible.
- Try to find out the representative's voting record on this or similar legislation in the past.

Writing the letter

- Write it yourself.* Personalized letters in your own words are best. If you are using a prewritten e-mail online, consider personalizing the first few lines.
- Be thoughtful and personal but brief.* Share your knowledge and experience, but keep it short enough to hold the person's interest.
- Include your name and where you live* in the body of your letter. This way, the representative knows you are their constituent.
- Be specific* and limit the letter to one topic. If possible, cite the bill number or title and clearly state your position on this topic.
- If you are emailing your letter, *put your issue in the subject line.*
- Mention any groups or communities of which you are a part.* This way, the representative knows that you are one of many people concerned about this issue.
- Be courteous and thank the representative* for their time and consideration.
- Try to keep your letter to one page.*
- Ask for a response.*
- Pay attention;* if your representative votes in agreement with your position write her/him a thank you letter.

Writing as a Community

One way that a community can participate in the political and legislative process is by getting together to write letters as a group. This can happen after worship or during coffee hour and is a great way to engage members and make a larger impact!

FAITH ALERTS

To receive e-mail alerts and assistance writing and targeting representatives sign up at: www.faithadvocacy.org or email advocacy@faithadvocacy.org.