



11TH ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY

Tip Sheet on Public Policy Advocacy Conversations

1) Know the Lawmaker's Background:

- Ohio lawmakers bring a variety of experiences to the Statehouse floor. Many are current or former teachers, farmers, lawyers, nurses, doctors, finance professionals, judges, and business owners.
- It is extremely helpful to review the lawmaker's biography ahead of the meeting to anticipate the lens through which the lawmaker will analyze the topic.
 - For example, a former prosecutor may view the content through a criminal legal system perspective, whereas a former teacher may think of the direct impact on children.

2) Embrace Your Own Expertise:

- Lawmakers lean on their own experience when evaluating policy, but they also recognize and value experts across various fields. This is a topic on which few lawmakers can claim professional expertise. They know you are an expert and they want to learn from your experiences and perspective.

3) The Questions May Not Always Align:

- Because lawmakers bring varying perspectives, their questions are often rooted in their professional experiences. They may ask about potential alternatives or additional possible solutions to problems, not to disparage the original idea, but to provide additional help.
 - This is especially common when lawmakers have criminal legal system experience. It can be helpful to say "I think that could potentially be quite helpful, I will let our partners at OAESV know and they will connect with you to follow-up."
- Should a suggestion arise, please record it in your post-event survey so that OAESV knows to reach out.

4) Don't Worry About Filling Time:

- With the packed schedules that staffers and legislators are working daily, teams are very busy and will appreciate brevity.

5) Send a Thank-You Email and Follow-Up if They Request Further Information:

- If you need information on how to reach the aide or lawmaker you spoke with, please do not hesitate to ask OAESV for assistance.
- If the lawmaker asks for information, do your best to follow-up and let OAESV know if we can support you in this endeavor.