# **How to Talk**

# So Your Minnesota Legislator Will Listen

It may only take a couple of phone calls, emails, or other contact from constituents to get an issue on your legislators' radar.

#### Do A Little Research

Visit legislators' websites to learn their backgrounds and positions or go to https://www.leg.state.mn.us.

- Sign up for their emails.
- Sign up for ACLU-MN updates at <u>www.aclu-mn.</u>
  org and ACLU <u>People Power</u> to stay in the loop and
  take action at critical moments.

## **MEET (VIRTUALLY)**

- Attend virtual town hall meetings, and voter or legislative forums. Come prepared with a question and be sure to introduce yourself if possible.
- During session, most lawmakers are meeting virtually due to COVID-19. Contact them in advance to schedule a meeting.
- Out of session, in their home districts, legislators have more time. Set up a Zoom with them and invite like-minded friends.



### **WRITE A LETTER**



Old-fashioned pen and paper can be very effective since it's increasingly rare. Go to the ACLU of Minnesota website for messaging or use your own words. Encourage others to write as well.

#### **MAKE A CALL**



Simply pick up the phone and call your legislator's office. You may reach a staffer or leave a message. State the issue(s) and what you want them to do about it. Call the House at (651) 296-2146 and the Senate at 651-296-0504.



- Be brief. Legislators want to know what you think.
  Write just a paragraph or two and keep phone messages to a few sentences.
- Be firm but courteous. Use respectful language.
  If possible, include praise for a position the legislator has taken in the past.

