

## **CALLING YOUR REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR**

### **Jim Riesberg**

They are really just like you

#### **Easiest call is to your district representatives**

- First: Do some Research
- Check their key issues
- Know their Committee assignments
- Know their past history (years of service, leadership roles, web sites)

#### **Know your groups Mission, Vision or Goal**

Words are important: Senior, Older Adult, Elder

#### **Know the Purpose of your call**

- Ask them to vote a certain way
- Educate them on an issue
- Become a trusted source
- Invite them to a meeting or offer some resources
- To get them to respond to your message

#### **Make the contact**

- Introduce yourself and who you are calling for
- Concisely state your issue or concern
- Explain why it is important to you
- TELL YOUR STORY
- Listen carefully to their response, questions, concerns

**If you want a YES vote:** tell them what the problem is that needs to be solved

Explain how your proposal will solve the problem (be the solution)

**If you want a NO vote:** Explain what it would do and why it will not solve any problems and may even make things worse

#### **Other calls that could be made**

- Committee members
- Any member before Second Reading

#### **Ways to make contact**

- Personal visit
- Phone Call (Capitol Office, Home, Cell)
- Leave a message
- Text
- Mail
- E-mail
- One of their meetings