


TALKING WITH POLICY MAKERS SCRIPT

When advocating for age-inclusive policies there are a few things to consider: Who should I contact? What should I say? How do I prepare? Below are tips to help you get ready to present your issue, followed by an example of how to talk with a representative using the principles to reframe aging.


Tips for Discussing an Age-Inclusivity Issue with Your Elected Official

1




Research your issue: Gain a thorough understanding of your issue. Consult local organizations that are invested in the same concern. Reach out to older people through senior centers and other avenues to gather different perspectives or find consensus.

2



Identify your representative: Focus on contacting officials who represent your district, as they prioritize constituents' opinions. If you're not a constituent, consider partnering with someone who is. Use official resources to find your representative's contact information and ensure you're reaching the correct official at the appropriate level of government. Here is one option: [Find and contact elected officials | USAGov](#)


3



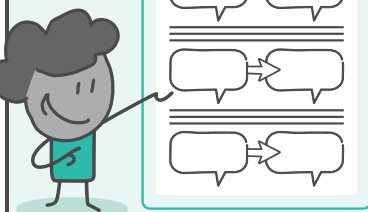
Choose a contact method: You can reach out to your representative by phone, email, or schedule an in-person meeting. Writing a letter is also an option.

4

Prepare for staff interactions: Treat interactions with staff at equal importance as with elected officials. Have your talking points ready and aim to be clear and concise.




5



Use appropriate language: Utilize tools from the National Center to Reframe Aging, such as the [Quick Start Guide to Reframe Aging Advocacy](#), to ensure your message is appropriately framed.

6



Follow up: About two weeks after your initial contact, follow up. You may ask about:

- a. Other groups working on similar issues
- b. Any active proposals being considered
- c. Actions taken by the office regarding your concern

How to Discuss Age-Inclusive Issues with Reframed Messaging:

Advocate: My name is _____ and I am a constituent living in _____. We are all aging. As we live longer, healthier lives, now is the time to tap into our innovative and spirit to ensure our community is accessible to people of all ages. I am here today to talk about age-inclusive transportation and how we can improve access to this essential resource in our community.

Official/Staffer: How can we help to address this?

Advocate: Currently our neighborhood has five local bus stops—the hospital, health care clinic, school, and grocery store. Increasing the bus stops to reach community centers would create opportunities for all of us to stay active in our communities and have access to engage with people of all ages. Community centers foster intergenerational connections, which benefit us all.

Official/Staffer: Thank you for calling we will take your issue under consideration.

Advocate: Please let me know if you hear of any groups working on this issue or if there are any proposals being considered. I would appreciate updates on any actions your office takes regarding the transit issue. Let me know if you plan to have any conversations with the local transit authority or if you speak out in support at any meetings.

Official/Staffer: Thank you for calling to discuss this issue with me, I'll speak with [elected official] and let them know of your concern.

Advocate: Thank you for your time, you can contact me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX should you have any questions. I'll also follow up in a few weeks to see if there's any new information on this topic!

