

## **Communicating with Government Officials**

Members of the Maryland General Assembly want to hear from you. Your communication with public officials can have a great influence. Take advantage of opportunities to get to know your legislators through medical society meetings, business associations, and political functions. Lobbying is communication intended to influence specific legislation. Direct lobbying is communication made to a legislator, employee of a legislative body, or any other government employee who participates in the formulation of legislation. When an organization asks members to contact legislators in support or opposition to legislation, this is also direct lobbying.

When writing or calling legislators, remember to be logical, specific (refer to bill content and number) and timely (before bill is out of committee). Identify yourself with name, address, and phone number, and request a reply.

Suggested format:

To the Governor:   The Honorable Wes Moore  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle, State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Dear Governor Moore,

To your Senator:   The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
James or Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

To your Delegate:   The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Dear Delegate \_\_\_\_\_,