

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 Martin O'Malley
Governor
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401
Dear Governor O'Malley:

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 _____: