

Resource to Lobby to Your Own Local Governments

Step 1: Find an issue that you feel passionate about in the disabilities rights movement

- The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is an organization that strives to provide higher educational standards for children who have intellectual and developmental disabilities or who are gifted.
 - The CEC website includes many great tips about policy and advocacy and the legislation that they are currently focused on
 - You can find more information about specific issues [here \(http://www.cec.sped.org/Policy-and-Advocacy/Current-Sped-Gifted-Issues\)](http://www.cec.sped.org/Policy-and-Advocacy/Current-Sped-Gifted-Issues)
- Some sample ideas of important issues at the moment are:
 - Secondary school and post-secondary development research Funding
 - Teacher Evaluation
 - Disability rights in the workplace

Step 2: research this issue and find out what current legislation is in place (It is vital that you have a good background knowledge of the issue before you confront legislators about it)

- Again, the CEC website is great to give you background on a good number of issues, but another reliable and convenient source is the American Association of People with Disabilities [website \(http://www.aapd.com/resources/power-grid-blog/\)](http://www.aapd.com/resources/power-grid-blog/)

Step 3: Write your letter

- The CEC website has a great [resource \(http://capwiz.com/cek/issues/alert/?alertid=62635156\)](http://capwiz.com/cek/issues/alert/?alertid=62635156) for letter templates that you can use if you don't know exactly what you want to say in your letter
- The template under legislation and issues may not be the issue you wanted to write about
 - If this is the case, delete the prepared text and enter in a new subject and body that fits your goals

Step 4: Find out who your local legislators are by entering your address information on the CEC page

- Highlight to either print the message (meaning you would mail the letter with snail mail) or email the message, in which case you would email it directly
- Enter your information

Step 5: Print or hit send!

- If you choose to mail the letter, use the address provide to you and send the letter as you would normally send a letter

Step 6: Share this resource with your friends and peers from your chapter

Congratulations! By speaking up for what you are passionate about you are making a huge difference!