



Make Your Legislative Visit a Success!

Why Visit Our Legislators? To share our experience and perspective, and tell our representatives how they can take action on key issues. ENACT Day is an opportunity to tell legislators that healthy communities are priorities for their constituents (*you!*)—and so should be priorities for them as well.

Convening Your Team The strength of ENACT is our diversity and shared goal. All of us- with different perspectives- value policy to support healthy, equitable communities. Each ENACT Day team will include a combination of community members, students, health advocates, and others.

The Visit While all ENACT Day visit teams will share the **ENACT Day 2018 Priorities**, each visit will be unique. Some team members want to focus on issue advocacy; others want to lobby on specific bills. Both parts are critical to a successful legislative visit. During the training, decide which people on the team will take the lead on specific issues or bills, and who will facilitate to keep everyone on track.

LEGISLATIVE VISITS ARE AS SIMPLE AS 1,2,3...

1. LAUNCH

Introductions: Each team member should introduce themselves and briefly note relevant personal information, such as, “I live in XYZ town, and my children attend XYZ school” or “I’m a youth advocate living in XYZ city.” Assign a lead person to start the meeting and keep the conversation on track.

2. MAKE THE CASE

Priorities: Now it’s time to focus on the issues! Many ENACT participants want to discuss specific bills and urge a position. Others can share their experience and personal perspective. **Both are essential to a successful visit.** For example, if your team is talking about issues of food access, one person can share their experience struggling to provide fresh, healthy food for their family. Another person can share specific bill(s) that could make healthy food more affordable and urge support.

Values: Remember to express the values behind your concern. You are at ENACT Day because you believe we need policy that supports healthy communities for all Californians. Sharing your values is a great way to connect with our legislators. Share what you believe in, and what matters most to you.

3. SEAL THE DEAL!

Get a Commitment: Your goal is to build relationships with our representatives, and get legislators to take action on issues you care about. To do so, you need to understand their position.

Do they seem unsupportive or non committal? Ask what would be useful to understand more: visit your community? see data or research? Find ways to keep the issue alive and on their radar.

Are they supportive and interested? Urge the legislator to vote in support of ENACT bills that are up for a vote. Ask what you can do to keep them engaged in your priority issues going forward!

Determine Follow-Up: At the end of the visit, give them the ENACT Day Legislator Packet and explain that fact sheets are included. Ask what you can do to follow-up, and thank them for their time.