



Downtown Congregations
To End Homelessness

Share your story with people in power, and transform your Community.

Your work:

- This is prayerful, thoughtful, and important work.
- This is work to be done in community.
- Be clear about your values.
- Understand how your values intersect with and affect the world around you.
- Learn about the issues and the trends. While personal stories are powerful, understanding facts and data are also important.
- Trust yourself and the process. Successful policy change is a long-term process. It's about building relationships and helping change minds and hearts. This conversion does not happen overnight. Your call or email is a great first step, and will likely be read by your elected official and their staff—even if you did not get the response that you hoped for.

2013 DCEH Legislative Session Kick Off

Telling Your Story To Legislators

Starting Point

Elected officials are people just like you. They are not experts in everything, and often are not familiar with issues that you are passionate and informed about.

A few calls or emails on an issue can make a big difference in bringing it to the attention of elected officials. Getting their attention is the first step!

Personal stories make the greatest impact – those are the ones likely to be remembered. It's fine to work from talking points but try to make the language your own.

Sharing your story with Legislators

Effective communication with elected officials includes a clear understanding of what you are doing and why.

- **Purpose:** Be clear about the purpose of your communication with elected officials. ***Understand what you want.***
- **Passion:** Speak from your passion or core interests, embracing the energy and clarity this offers. Be clear about ***why you care about this issue.***
- **Personalize:** share ***stories, feelings, and experiences*** that exemplify why this is a value to you.
- **Pointed:** Be ***focused and concise*** in your speaking or writing. Make your case in a few words.
- **Polite:** No one likes to be threatened or preached to, so always be polite and respectful. Thank them for good work done and for their time and attention.
- **Practice:** Share your story with family, friends, neighbors, as well as your elected officials.

Think through these questions and boldly share your story.

What do I want... What is my goal of communicating?

What are the reasons I am connected to this issue? Why is this important to me? My personal experiences, feelings, and stories are....