

# COLORADANS FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

A project of the American Friends Service Committee 

## Welcome to the Adopt a Policy Maker Campaign!

### Why Adoption?

The opportunity to educate, inform, empower and equip Policy Makers is a tremendous privilege every voting citizen can utilize. Most Policy Makers can't keep up with *all* of the moving parts involved in developing and voting on good policy, but they can feel empowered when they are informed by bi-partisan passionate constituents. With the immigration debate, in particular, real time information, fact checking and the ability to refute erroneous statements or media reports is key in gaining ground for Immigrant Rights. Joining CFIR's campaign and adopting a Policy Maker gives you the opportunity to provide concise, solid information that is clear and compelling to your City, State and National Representatives, helping them support the human rights of immigrants.

### How it works...

Use Project Vote Smart to find out who your Policy Makers are: <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>

Follow the links to check out their website and get on their email alert list.

Familiarize yourself with your Policy Maker's issues and voting history.

### What CFIR gives You:

- Contact information for your Policy Maker & their (immigration) staff, as well as a list of committees they belong to;
- Credible information, articles, studies, polls, etc. regarding immigration that would help inform policy makers about immigration policy;
- Tips for getting your Policy Maker to read and discuss the information with YOU, their constituent.

### Tips for talking to your policy maker!

1. A good story is essential. Connect the faces of the people affected by the legislation they create or vote on, just because they're politicians doesn't mean they aren't moved by the human impact. Your policy maker may rely on you to make them credible when they say they've talked to their constituents;
2. Less is better in terms of maintaining a "high value" service to policy makers. We will provide you with items that don't overwhelm them with too much information. Because of their position they often need to think and talk in sound bites;
3. Remember that policy makers are in a position where everyone wants something from them. Start your relationship with them as some one who wants to provide *them* with something they need to do their job better;
4. Policy makers are expected to know a lot about everything, in reality they know very little (or just enough) about a lot of things. Your job is to become a resource for them, if they have a question about an immigration related item, your name should come to mind as someone who can help.

***Strengthening the Movement for Immigrant Justice!***

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