



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Request Appointments with your Legislators on Have a Heart for Kids Day: Three Easy Steps

1. Identify your legislators and their contact information.

Visit www.leg.wa.gov OR call the Legislative Hotline at (800) 562-6000. All you need to know is your address.

2. Request your meetings

Meetings with legislators or aides during the legislative session are usually 15 minutes or shorter. To have the biggest impact, request meetings with *all three* of your legislators.

You can ask for meetings by calling the office or sending an email. If you call, you may also be asked to send an email. Many legislative aides prefer to keep track of meetings by email.

What to say: Introduce yourself, say you live in the legislator's district and that you are coming to the Capitol for Children's Alliance's Have a Heart for Kids Day, and that you would like to meet with your legislator. If you call, you may need to leave a message. Be sure to leave a phone number where you can easily be reached. Here's a sample script.

"Hi. My name is (insert your first and last name). I live in the ____ district. I am coming to the Capitol for Have a Heart for Kids Day with the Children's Alliance on February 8th. I would like to meet with (insert legislator's name) to talk about issues I care about that affect kids and families. Please call me at _____. Thank you."

Timing: The best time to schedule your meetings is 1-3 p.m., after the morning program, march, and rally. If that doesn't work, it's fine to schedule earlier in the day, and miss part of the program. The rally is 12:15-1:00 p.m. It is best not to schedule meetings during this time.

If you are able to arrive early, then you can schedule your meeting before 10 a.m. If you do, please either contact us in advance, or come to United Churches early to get your packet.

If you can't meet with your legislator, meet with the legislative aide. If your legislator will not be available, you will probably be offered a meeting

with his or her legislative aide. That's great! The aide is an advisor to your legislator and meeting with them is very valuable.

Special note about timing: On Have a Heart for Kid Day this year it is likely that legislators will be “on the floor” most of the day. That means they are with the full House or Senate considering bills for a vote. That *can* make it hard to get a scheduled meeting, but *doesn't* mean you can't get time to talk to your legislators. When legislators are on the floor they will often step out to speak to constituents in the hallway for a few minutes. We will be helping people put in notes to ask to speak to their legislator.

When you speak to the legislative aide, if you are told that they can't schedule a meeting because the legislator is going to be on the floor, ask if there is a time that you might be able to pull him or her off the floor to talk for a few minutes, OR ask to meet with the legislative aide.

3. Tell us about it! (And ask for help if you need it.)

Please let us know who you have appointments with and let us know if you need any help making appointments. Call or email Siobhan Ring at Siobhan@childrensalliance.org or call (206) 324-0340 ext. 13.