Advocacy in the Legislative Process

We need your voice!

Our legislative body is made up of real people elected into office by you. The legislators need and want to hear from their constituents. They rely on constituents for information.

How it works:

In 2025 the Legislature opens at noon on Tuesday, January 21st. The 60-day session will focus on the budget and any bill or policy issue that a legislator wants to bring forward. The session will end at noon on March 22nd. Any legislation must be proposed by February 20th. After the legislators vote, the governor will have until April 11th to sign the legislation into law.

How to participate:

Find your senator or representative and their contact information at the New Mexico Legislature website. Search by your zip code or address. See suggestions on the back of this page for how to most effectively communicate with these lawmakers. Follow bills you care about on **Bill Finder** or **My Roundhouse.**

Steps to Becoming a Law

1 Bills are drafted with input from interested parties. They are sponsored by legislators, given a number and assigned to a standing committee.

2 Assigned committees hear each bill and either pass, or do not recommend the bill.

3 If passed by all committees, the bill moves on to the Senate or House respectively, considered again for a pass, no pass, or no recommendation.

4 If the bill passes the House or Senate, it moves back to the next series of committee hearings where it is considered again for a pass, no pass or no recommendation.

5 If the bill passes its 2nd round, it moves on to the House or Senate, respectively.

6 If the bill passes both the Senate AND the House it will go to the Governor to be signed.

7 If the bill is signed by the Governor, it becomes law.

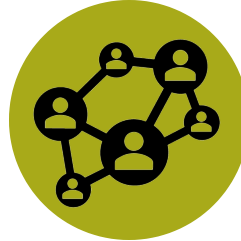# How to Effectively Communicate With Lawmakers

Get to Know Your Legislators

Get to know your legislators and let them get to know you and what is important to you! The best time to do this is before or after the session. Invite them to meet with you.

Numbers Count!

Get the people who are affected by the legislation to call, write, or email. Call the Capitol switchboard and ask to be transferred if you are unsure of the direct phone number. Legislators also pay attention to Twitter X feeds, e.g. **#nmlegis**.

Know What's on the Governor's Desk

If a bill is on the Governor's desk, contact their office to urge them to sign it if you support it. Be sure to let them know why. If you oppose a bill, and don't want the Governor to sign it, let them know what you would prefer to see happen.

Tell Your Story

Start all communication with which <u>one</u> bill/issue you are discussing, and how you would like the legislator to respond. Write a short summary of how your situation will be impacted by a particular bill.. Be clear in your language, avoid jargon and include your contact information.

Attend Forums

The Disability Coalition hosts an annual pre-legislative Session Forum, as well as regular legislative reports throughout the Session, as do other Disability groups around the state. Find upcoming trainings at **nmfinder.org**.

Capitol Switchboard
(505) 986-4300

Office of the Governor
(505) 476-2200

New Mexico Legislature

Find Your Legislator

Bill Finder

My Roundhouse

Live Webcasting

Disability Rights NM

The Arc of New Mexico Policy & Advocacy

UNM Center for Development and Disability Information Network
Providing Library Services and Community Resource Connections
2300 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107
Call us: 505-272-8549 Email us: HSC-Infonet@salud.unm.edu