

How to Facilitate a Call-In For the Girls Lead Month of Action

Phone calls are an impactful way to influence legislators. Calling your lawmaker's office is easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Congressional offices receive many calls from constituents every day. Every call is tallied by the office, and they use the volume of calls on a certain issue to gauge what's most important to their constituents. Typically, the issues with the greatest number of calls are the ones that get the most attention from the member of Congress.

You can make a phone call on your own or increase your impact by organizing a call-in, during which a group of advocates gathers to make phone calls to their elected official's office, back to back, about the same issue. This may sound weird or uncomfortable, since if you were to personally receive a bunch of phone calls back to back with the same message you'd think it was pretty annoying. **Yet this is actually really effective in getting the attention of lawmakers!** It's similar to a legislator receiving a similar number of postcards or handwritten letters about the same issue, but phone calls typically carry more weight.

To start, look up the phone number of your congressional representatives at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. Check out this [video](#) about calling your legislator to prepare yourself and your fellow advocates!

Tips on Calling your Member of Congress:

- **Your legislator will not be the one to take your call so you don't have to be nervous!** A staffer will answer the call and take down your message to record with other constituent calls they receive that day.
- **You don't have to be an expert.** Don't feel that you have to memorize facts and figures before your call. It's more important to express that you are a constituent who is passionate about helping kids.
- **State that you are a constituent.** When you call, tell the staffer who answers that you are a constituent. The staffer will probably request your address so that they can confirm you are a constituent and mail you a written response.
- **If you have a story, share it!** Personal stories go a long way to illustrating the problem.
- **Be brief.** The staffer who answers the phone receives many calls every day. Simply let them know why you are calling and that you are a constituent.

For the month of action, we are making phone calls in support of the Girls Leadership, Engagement, Agency and Development (LEAD) Act (S. 2766), which would support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of girls around the world. Check [here](#) to see if your member of Congress has cosponsored the resolution.

A sample call script follows on the next page.

Sample Call Script:

Hi. My name is [____] and I am a student at [school] in [city, state].

*If the legislation has **not yet cosponsored** the legislation:*

I'm calling to ask [legislator] to cosponsor the Girls LEAD Act, S.2766, which would support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of girls around the world. Too often, girls face barriers to civic and political participation because of their age and gender. This bill recognizes and promotes girls' civic and political leadership as a priority for U.S. foreign assistance efforts. Supporting girls' participation in civic and political spaces is key to ensuring resilient and sustainable communities. Thank you.

*If the legislator **has already cosponsored** the resolution:*

I'm calling to thank [legislator] for cosponsoring the Girls LEAD Act, S. 2766, which would support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of girls around the world. Too often, girls face barriers to civic and political participation because of their age and gender. We appreciate your office's support of girls and young women across the globe.



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