



## CALLING YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

We need legislators to hear directly from their constituents, including via phone! Learn the step-by-step process for finding, contacting, and having a meaningful conversation with your legislator on Raising Wisconsin's state budget request for child care.

### STEP 1: FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS AND THEIR OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS.

Click [this link](#), and make sure Assembly Districts and Senate Districts are checked in the legend in the upper left of the map. Enter your residential/physical address in the field in the upper right corner and click the search button (or enter).

Write down the phone numbers for your elected officials and move to step 2!

### STEP 2: PREPARATION

Take a few moments to get organized and review resources so your conversation goes smoothly. Keep in mind to:

- **Be succinct:** Remember to keep your comments brief (2-3 minutes max.).
- **Be organized:** Write out notes with your key points about the importance of state funding for Child Care Counts before you call. Use Raising Wisconsin's child care state budget request [talking points handout](#) and [one-page overview](#) to guide your conversation.



### STEP 3: MAKE THE CALL

Once you're ready, make the call and be prepared to speak to whomever is available to field your comments or leave a voicemail. Always remember to:

- **Be direct:** If the office answers, state who you are, that you're a constituent in the district and that you're calling because you support state funding for child care in the next state budget.
- **Be prepared:** If you don't speak to the legislator directly, ask to speak with an aide or staffer and share your message with them. This is just as useful and should not be viewed as a detriment to your advocacy effort. The staffer will pass along the highlights of your conversation to the legislator.



- **Be honest:** If a question is asked and you don't know the answer, tell them you will get back to them with an answer and make sure to follow up. If your answer can't be found on the Raising Wisconsin website, reach out to **Jackie** at [janderson@wisconsinearlychildhood.org](mailto:janderson@wisconsinearlychildhood.org).
- **Be personal:** Tell your story and experience with child care and state how important state funding for Child Care Counts will be to support programs, families, and communities.
- **Be appreciative:** Thank them for their time.
- **If leaving a voicemail:** Follow the same steps as above, but make your comments shorter to state your support for the budget funding for child care, your name, and contact information so they can follow up with you if they choose.

## STEP 4: FOLLOW-UP

After the call, it's still important to be proactive. Follow up with an e-mail or letter within a few days to reiterate your points, reference your phone call, and thank them again. Links to legislative addresses can be found in the same search results as the phone numbers.

## OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE

Don't have time to make a call? That's OK! If you haven't already, take a minute to send a pre-populated letter to your elected officials with our online letter-writing portal. Enter your residential address, make a couple clicks, and the system does the rest.

[Early Childhood Programs Letter Portal](#)

[Families Letter Portal](#)

More info on taking action is available on Raising Wisconsin's [Engage Your Legislators](#) webpage.

