

Keys to Effectively Educating Your Legislators

• Make an Appointment to See Your Legislators

Legislative offices are much more responsive to constituent and educator requests than they are to CARD staff queries. If you make an appointment in your local area, please contact Susan Baldino at susanbaldino@comcast.net and let her know. We do not want to waste legislators' time with multiple appointments unless absolutely necessary.

First, collect contact information. You can find phone numbers to both local and capital offices, fax numbers, and emails addresses at the following web addresses: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/> and <http://www.flsenate.org/>

Email Requests should look like this example:

To the Honorable H. Marlene O'Toole;
Dear Representative O'Toole:
REQUEST FOR MEETING:
When: Week of January 14, 2013
Where: Tallahassee House Office
Who: Parent Advocate for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Other Parent Advocate Attending: TBD

Please contact me back at 123-456-7890, to set up scheduling.
I look forward to hearing from you soon.
Sincerely,

Please be sure to address the Senator or Representative correctly: Dear Senator Smith, OR Dear Representative Smith,

When phoning, you will usually speak with a **Legislative Aide** to schedule the appointment. Please have your calendar ready along with information about CARD. Some Legislators are new and may not be familiar with our organization.

FOLLOW-UP!! If you hadn't heard from the Legislators, it is important to follow-up via phone a week to a week and half prior to the week requesting the appointment.

Good Luck! If any questions or problems, feel free to contact FSU CARD parent, Carrie Stevens (850-274-9474), and she will be more than happy to help as soon as possible.

An Important Tip to Remember: Legislative aides have great influence and are often most knowledgeable about many issues. Aides will get your message to the legislator. When a legislator does not have time to become an expert on every issue, aides are relied on to research and suggest positions on certain subjects.

• Call Your Legislators

- Identify yourself by name, and organization or affiliation with the issue.
- Make your point: "I am interested in the budget request for Florida Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities – Please vote to increase funding for CARD."
- **Add a personal story:** "Without CARD, my family could not have coped with the diagnosis of Autism . . ." "CARD made a big difference in my child's education . . ." "CARD trained me so I can deal with autism in the classroom . . ."
- Send a thank you note to follow-up your call.

Sample Telephone Script:

"Hi, this is Nancy Jones calling from Bay County. Is Senator Gaetz available?"

(Chances are the legislator will not be available and you will talk with the person who answered the phone or another aide. Whomever you talk to is valuable!!)

"I'm calling Senator Gaetz to share my hope for an increase in funding for the Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities. My 7-year-old son, Joe, has autism. CARD has helped my family when he needed to be toilet trained, and again when we had problems with his learning how to communicate. Then, CARD provided training for his teachers so he could get along in school."

"I am asking Senator Gaetz to help CARD by voting to increase its funding."

• Write Letters to Your Legislators

- REMEMBER...Legislators receive an abundance of mail each day.
- Handwritten letters that are legible get more attention than any other mail a legislator receives!!
- E-mail Messages are only effective if you clearly state the specific action you are requesting in the subject line (i.e., "Support Increased Funding for the Florida Centers for Autism").
- Ask your friends and relatives to write a letter too!
- Send THANK YOU letters when you receive a response to your letter!!
- See the templates we have prepared to get ideas.

Senate Education Committee

Senator John Legg, Republican - CHAIR
(813) 909-9919 Legg.John.Web@Flsenate.Gov
262 Crystal Grove Blvd. Lutz 33548

Senator Bill Montford, Democrat -VICE-CHAIR
Montford.Bill.Web@Flsenate.Gov (850) 653-2656
58 Market Street Apalachicola 32320

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Republican
(239) 338-2570 Benacquisto.Lizbeth.Web@Flsenate.Gov
1926 Victoria Avenue 2nd Floor Ft. Myers 33901

Senator Jeff Brandes, Republican
brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov
3637 4th Street N., Ste 101 St. Petersburg 33704

Senator Dwight Bullard, Democrat
Bullard.Dwight.Web@Flsenate.Gov
10720 Caribbean Blvd. Suite 435 Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Senator Bill Galvano, Republican -
Galvano.Bill.Web@Flsenate.Gov
1023 Manatee Ave. West Suite 201 Bradenton 34205

Senator Maria Lorts Sachs, Democrat
(561) 279-1427 Sachs.Maria.Web@Flsenate.Gov
955 Nw 17th Avenue, Suite E Delray 33445

Senator David Simmons, Republican
(407) 262-7578 Simmons.David.Web@Flsenate.Gov
251 Maitland Ave, Ste 304 Altamonte Springs 3270

Senator Kelli Stargel, Republican
stargel.kelli.web@flsenate.gov
902 S. Florida Ave, Ste 101 Lakeland 33803

Senate Education Appropriations Committee

Senator Bill Galvano, Republican - CHAIRMAN
Galvano.Bill.Web@Flsenate.Gov
1023 Manatee Ave. West Suite 201
Bradenton 34205

Senator Bill Montford, Democrat -VICE-CHAIRMAN
Montford.Bill.Web@Flsenate.Gov (850) 653-2656
58 Market Street
Apalachicola 32320

Senator Joseph Abruzzo, Democrat
Abruzzo.Joseph.Web@Flsenate.Gov (561) 791-4774
12300 Forest Hill Boulevard Suite 200
Wellington 33414-5785

Senator Aaron Bean, Republican
Bean.Aaron.Web@Flsenate.Gov

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Republican
(239) 338-2570
Benacquisto.Lizbeth.Web@Flsenate.Gov
1926 Victoria Avenue 2nd Floor
Ft. Myers 33901

Senator Dwight Bullard, Democrat
Bullard.Dwight.Web@Flsenate.Gov
10720 Caribbean Blvd. Suite 435
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Senator Nancy C Detert, Republican
(941) 480-3547 Detert.Nancy.Web@Flsenate.Gov
417 Commercial Court Suite D
Venice 34292

Senator Dorothy L. Hukill, Republican
Hukill.Dorothy.Web@Flsenate.Gov

Senator John Legg, Republican
(813) 909-9919 Legg.John.Web@Flsenate.Gov
262 Crystal Grove Blvd. Lutz 33548

Senator Garrett Richter, Republican
(239) 417-6205 Richter.Garrett.Web@Flsenate.Gov
3299 E. Tamiami Trail Suite 203
Naples 34112-4961

Senator Maria Lorts Sachs, Democrat
(561) 279-1427 Sachs.Maria.Web@Flsenate.Gov
955 Nw 17th Avenue Suite E
Delray 33445

Senator David Simmons, Republican
(407) 262-7578 Simmons.David.Web@Flsenate.Gov
251 Maitland Avenue Suite 304
Altamonte Springs 3270

Senator John Thrasher, Republican
(904) 287-4222 Thrasher.John.Web@Flsenate.Gov
113 Nature Walk Parkway Suite 106
St. Augustine 32092

House Education Appropriations Committee

Representative Eric Fresen(R) CHAIRMAN

6080 Bird Road Suite 1
Miami, FL 33155-5249 (305) 663-2011
Erik.Fresen@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Rep. Marlene O'Toole, (R) VICE-CHAIR

916 Avenida Central
The Villages, FL 32159-5704 (352) 315-4445
Marlene.Otoole@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Janet Adkins, (R)

905 S 8th Street Fernandina Bch, FL 32034-3706
(904) 491-3664 Janet.Adkins@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Larry Ahern, (R)

Suite 101 Bb&T Bank 5511 Park Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33709-6399 (727) 545-6421
Larry.Ahern@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Karen Castor Dentel, (D)

696 N Maitland Ave Maitland, FL 32751-4423
Karen.Castordentel@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Rep. Heather Dawes Fitzenhagen, (R)

2120 Main Street Suite 208
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3010 (239) 533-2440
Heather.Fitzenhagen@Myfloridahouse.Gov

House Education K-12 Subcommittee

Representative Janet H. Adkins (R) - CHAIR

905 South 8th Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (904) 491-3664
945 North Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091-2110 (904) 966-6215
Janet.Adkins@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Rep. Ronald "Doc" Renuart (R) Vice Chair

115 Professional Drive Suite 107
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082 (904) 270-2550
Ronald.Renuart@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Rep. Gwyndolen "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed (D)

Pompano Bch City Hall 100 West Atlantic Blvd
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-6099 (954) 786-4848
Gwyn.Clarke-Reed@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Dennis K. Baxley (R)

315 Southeast 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471-2689 (352) 732-1313
Dennis.Baxley@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Randolph Bracy (D)

Randolph.Bracys@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Karen Castor Dentel (D)

696 North Maitland Ave Maitland, FL 32751-4423
Karen.Castordentel@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Mia Jones, (D)

3890 Dunn Avenue Suite 901
Jacksonville, FL 32218-6431 (904) 924-1615
Mia.Jones@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Larry Lee Jr., (D)

100 North Us Highway 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950-4205 (772) 595-1391
Larry.Lee@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative W. Keith Perry, (R)

2440 SW 76th Street Suite 120
Gainesville, FL 32608-0345 (352) 313-6544
Keith.Perry@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Jake Raburn, (R)

13452 Boyette Road
Riverview, FL 33569-5706
Jake.Raburn@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Betty Reed, (D)

2109 East Palm Avenue Suite 201
Tampa, Florida 33605-3909 (813) 241-8024
Betty.Reed@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Charlie Stone, (R)

(W Ocala to Cedar Key, North To Chiefland)
Charlie.Stone@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Manny Diaz, Jr. (R)

17680 Northwest 78th Avenue Suite 104
Hialeah, Florida 33015-3667
Manny.Diaz@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Dane Eagle (R)

Lee Co Adm Bldg Suite 310 1039 SE 9th Place
Cape Coral, Florida 33990-3131
Dane.Eagle@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Dave Hood (R)

444 Seabreeze Boulevard Suite 720
Daytona Beach, Florida 32118-3952
Dave.Hood@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Elizabeth W. Porter (R)

678 Southeast Baya Drive
Lake City, Florida 32025-6038 (386) 719-4600
Elizabeth.Porter@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Jake Raburn (R)

13452 Boyette Road Riverview, FL 33569-5706
Jake.Raburn@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Richard Stark (D)

1730 Main Street Suite 202 Weston, FL 33326
Richard.Stark@Myfloridahouse.Gov

Representative Carl "Z" Zimmermann (D)

Carl.Zimmermann@Myfloridahouse.Gov