

## Personal Lobbying: What to Say and How to Say It

Do you want to know who to call in Harrisburg to fix the healthcare crisis in PA? Wouldn't you like to tell the politicians who are blocking healthcare reform to get off their elected backsides and do their jobs? We can all start by reaching out and touching the 29 esteemed members of the House Health and Human Services Committee (HHS). They are resolutely ignoring the best healthcare reform legislation in a lifetime, HB1660, and a study likely to prove how beneficial single payer will be to the Commonwealth.

What we have here is a little guide to calling these fine representatives and reminding them of their duties to the citizens of the Commonwealth. An average call (we've timed it) takes just three minutes, and it's easier than you think. If people like you call just one HHS member a day –or a dozen- we'll be on the way to sane healthcare in no time. You can find a list of HHS members and their contact numbers at [www.healthcare4allPA.org](http://www.healthcare4allPA.org).

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**You** - "Hi, my name is XXX, and I have a question for Rep. XXX. Would I be able to speak to Rep. XXX, or leave a message with you?"

**Them** - "Of course! The Rep is not in / is busy at the moment, but I'd love to take a message. What was your name again?"

**You** - "Thanks. My name is XXX, and I understand there is a bill in the Health and Human Services Committee called HB1660. It is a bill proposing comprehensive, single payer healthcare for every Pennsylvania citizen. I know June is budget month. We're trying to get \$100,000 to do an independent, non-partisan (not bi-partisan, non-partisan) economic impact study on HB 1660. California had a similar bill in their house, and when the economic impact study was completed in 2005, it showed that implementation of the bill would have saved the state over \$8 billion in 2006 alone. **This is an opportunity for Rep.. XXX to not only provide every single PA citizen with quality health coverage, but also to save the state potentially billions of dollars.** This is not a liberal issue, and this is not a conservative issue. This is an issue of equality and fiscal responsibility. I hope we can count on Rep. XXX's support for this budget item."

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That's it! If you're a little nervous about personal lobbying, this "canned" language will help you begin. It's always better to make the call your own, using your own (polite) language to urge these politicians forward. Let's all make something happen in Harrisburg!

