

## **Tips on Finding a Legislative Sponsor**

A law starts out as an idea. These ideas may come from anyone; concerned citizens or business owners etc. The idea is presented to a state level Representative. The Representative does the research to make sure the idea would be beneficial as a law. Then they have their bill drafters write the legislation. The Representative then presents this bill to other Representatives in hopes of gaining more support. Once the bill has a sponsor and the support of other Representatives, it is ready to be introduced.

### **Who do I contact?**

- Start by contacting your local state level Congressman about the issues. Ask them if they would be willing to sponsor your bill.
- Do you have relationships with other opinion leaders or political types (i.e. Chamber of Commerce, Advocacy Groups, Mayor, City Council members). Speak with them about the potential bill. They may be able to connect you with their friends in higher places.
- Speak with your competition, other suppliers, and health care workers, to see if they are interested in your potential bill. Do they have relationships with other members of legislature? More constituent support equals more Representative support.

### **Be prepared before contacting your Representative.**

- Be comfortable and knowledgeable of the issue. Make sure you've thought out both sides of the case and are prepared with rebuttals. Be prepared to answer questions like, "Why does this need to happen?" and "Why is this so important?"
- How will this bill have a positive impact on your community and state?