

Communicating with Your Legislators Legislative Training 2025

Instructions and template for contacting STATE legislators

1. Visit <https://iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators>
2. **Indiana Residents:** use the address on your driver's license.
Non-Residents: use the address you reside in while attending your university

Find Your Legislator

Enter your home address to get your legislator information.

* = required

Street Address *

Please enter a complete address (Ex: 1111 E County Road 111S)

City *

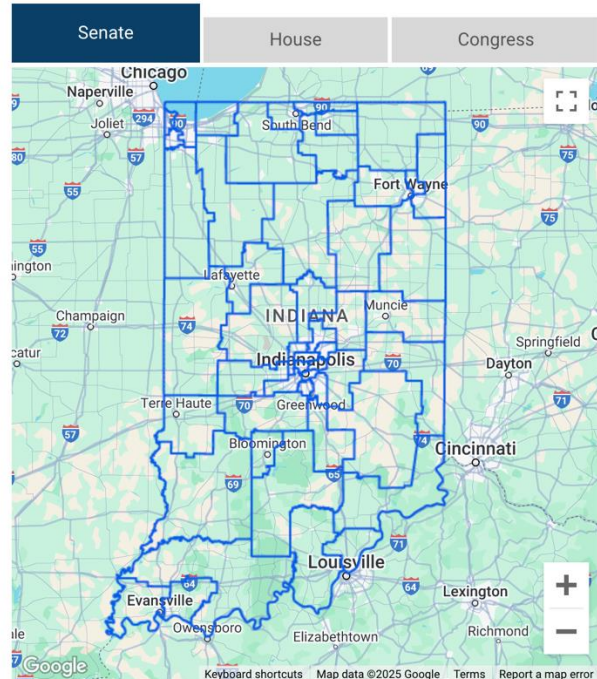
State

Indiana

Zip *

Search

Please enter numbers only (Ex:
46140)



1. Make note of your STATE senator and STATE representative. There is only 1 of each. You are NOT contacting your federal legislators for this event.
2. Click on the legislator's name. On their page, look at the column to the left and click "contact my office"
 - a. Sometimes their email address may not be readily available. See below for email address formatting using their district number.
 - b. Phone calls are also effective! Alternatively, leave a message with their office aide extending an invitation.
3. Repeat for the other legislator in your area.

SEE BELOW FOR GUIDELINES REGARDING EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

EMAIL/LETTERS

- Address the letter or email to a specific legislator. Make sure to verify the correct spelling of the legislator's name and use their correct title.
- The subject line should state your brief position on the legislative issue or proposed bill.
 - For example, "Oppose Bill XYZ," or "Support Bill XYZ."
- Communicate your issue and share the impact that it has on you personally.
- Keep it brief and concise. Aim for no longer than one page.
 - The first paragraph should include a greeting and a request for specific action to be taken by the legislator.
 - The following paragraphs should include a description of the bill, explain the legislation, and support your position on it.
- Identify that you are the legislator's constituent if applicable.

PHONE CALLS

- Always identify yourself as a constituent.
- An aide, not the legislator, will answer the phone. State the reason for calling clearly and succinctly and provide brief background about the legislative issue.
 - Remember, a legislator deals with hundreds of issues and thousands of calls/emails. You are the expert in speech and hearing. You educate them.
- Include a personal story related to the legislative issue, if applicable. Stories about how you, your colleagues, friends, or family may be impacted by potential legislation are remembered most of all.
- Address one issue during the call. The listener will often be taking notes, and introducing a new issue might confuse them.
- Request that the legislator takes action. Ask them to support or oppose the bill, saying, "I am asking ____ to support/oppose Bill ___"
- Lastly, ask the individual taking your call to convey your message, ask for a response about the legislative issue raised in the call, and thank them for their time.

SEE BELOW FOR EXAMPLES OF EMAIL/PHONE CALL TEMPLATES

–green highlights indicate wording to be personalized

If you wish to contact your legislators by email, use the following accounts and fill in your legislators’ specific information:

- For **State Senators (Senate)**: s(district #)@iga.in.gov
 - Example: s25@iga.in.gov
- For **State Representatives (House)**: h(district #)@iga.in.gov
 - Example: h91@iga.in.gov

To invite your legislators to Legislative Day if you are going to be at the Statehouse:

Dear **Senator/Representative _____**

My name is _____, and I am a **speech-language pathology/audiology graduate/undergraduate** student at **XYZ University**. I am a constituent in your district and I am reaching out to invite you to the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s (ISHA) annual Legislative Day at the Statehouse on **Monday, February 10th**. We will gather on the **Second Floor, South Atrium from 10:30 AM -1:30 PM**.

We invite you to join us for cookies and conversation to discuss current legislation crucial for maintaining and improving the services we provide across the lifespan to the citizens of Indiana. Faculty and students from Communication Sciences and Disorders programs across the state will be in attendance with information about our training programs and the breadth of the scope of practice in audiology and speech-language pathology.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

First Last Name

To communicate with your legislators if you are NOT going to be at Legislative Day:

Pick one of the following topics below and insert that content into this template. Limit your content to one bill per email. List the bill number and title in your email subject. You certainly can send more than one email to address more than one piece of legislation.

Dear **Senator/Representative_____**

My name is _____ and I am a **speech-language pathology/audiology graduate/undergraduate student at XYZ University.** I am a constituent in your district and reaching out to ask you to **(Pick one bill and insert the paragraph below here.)**

1. Support **HB 1572 (hearing aids and speech-language pathologists)**. This bill defines over-the-counter hearing aids. It puts Indiana in compliance with an FDA rule established in 2022 that created a new category of hearing aids – over-the-counter hearing aids – in addition to the current category of prescription hearing aids. This ensures the two types of hearing aids have separate and distinct definitions in Indiana Code. It also clarifies that only an audiologist or a hearing aid dealer have the authority to “fit” a prescription or over-the-counter hearing aid, ensuring that those performing the fitting are properly trained.

It also adds speech-language pathologist assistants (SLPAs) – who were inadvertently left out of the final version of the omnibus telehealth bill during the 2023 legislative session – to the list of professionals who may provide telehealth services. This is imperative to ensure that students in rural areas or in school where positions are unfilled will get the services they need and deserve.

2. Support **SB 164 (licensed professional music therapists)**. This bill establishes licensure for a professional music therapist and specifies the scope of services a music therapist can provide to ensure that it protects and does not encroach upon the scope of practice for audiologists and speech-language pathologists. It protects patients with communication disorders by ensuring that music therapists stay within their scope of services, while also working in tandem with audiologists and speech-language pathologists who are providing their services to the same patients. The bill language was agreed upon by both the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

3. Oppose **HB1136 (school corporation reorganization)**. This bill seeks to dissolve certain public-school corporations and transition them to charter schools, putting special education students and ISHA professionals at risk. Students needing hearing and/or speech therapy services can face academic challenges and typically have an individualized education program (IEP) to assist them. Uprooting them from the school

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system and the special education services they are used to could hurt not only their academic success but also could hinder the progress they are making in regard to the hearing or speech therapy services they are receiving. It also puts the jobs of dozens of ISHA professionals in jeopardy, because there is no certainty as to where these employees would land if the public schools were dissolved and how much their job responsibilities would change.

4. Oppose **HB 1520 (professional licensing)**. This bill removes licensure requirements for hearing aid dealers, leaving it ambiguous as to the extent of services hearing aid dealers can provide. This is particularly concerning with the new category of over-the-counter hearing aids (as established in HB 1572), as it puts consumers at risk because it eliminates regulation of – and any minimum competency standards for – hearing aid dealers.

Sincerely,

First Last Name