

Form letters provided by ALA or AASL are created as a jumping off point when contacting your legislators. They do give you all the important talking points, but if you just sign your name and think that will work your wrong. Just think about all those form letters you get back from them. "I thank you for contacting me about budget item 401, your point of view as well as all my constituents, is important to me and I will look at this issue closer." Then it is stamped with their signature. Although it does take time handwritten notes go along way.

When contacting your legislators' remember they are people just like you. Find out as much information that you can about their backgrounds and try to link your efforts to them personally. If you are both parents of a middle school aged child, than you can bring reasons why certified middle school media specialist is so important to give your children internet safety and informational ethics training. By relating personally to your legislator you are more likely to make a lasting impression.

Getting your children involved in your efforts is a great way to get the attention of your legislators. Some groups send Valentines on why they love their library to their legislators on Valentines day. You can do it for any holiday.

Columbus Day- Things we DISCOVERED at our School Library

Have students list neat things they learned in their school library

Earth Day- School Libraries: Recycling used books is our business

List ways your school libraries help the earth or your children learn about the earth.

Halloween- Scary School Library Statistics

Put your district or state statistic that you want to change. For example how few books your libraries have or how many children are not getting equitable access to a certified school library media specialist.

Labor Day- This is a good holiday to share the importance of

school library staff

Thanksgiving- We are thankful for our School Library
Students can write why they are thankful
for their school library

New Years- Send some New Years resolutions you would
like your

legislator to make to help school
libraries.

Presidents Day- The School Librarian: Lincoln's Best
Friend

"The things I want to know are in books; my
best friend is the man who'll get me a book I
ain't read." **Abraham Lincoln**

Famous quotes about libraries can be found at:

<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/loveyourlibrary/quotesaboutlibraries/index.cfm>

Get creative. Your goal is to keep your legislators
minds on your objectives. These notes will serve as
friendly reminders that you are not going away until
you get what you want.