Sample telephone outreach script for House and Senate offices

If you already have a contact in your Member of Congress’ office, start with them. If you don’t, call their main, listed D.C. number. Then it’s REALLY helpful if you can get past the person answering the phone and talk or email directly with the policy people who work on education and/or environment. Tell the receptionist that you really need to speak with the person who handles environmental or education legislation because you want to ask them directly about having the Senator/Representative cosponsor a new climate education bill. The person answering the phone will hopefully put you through to the staff’s voicemail or give you their email address. If the front desk staff wants to send you to the office website to fill in a webform, be pleasantly insistent that you have questions you need answered, so it really would be best to communicate with the staff directly.

You can use some of the “script” below as material for a written message if you are given an email address.

Thank you for your time and helping secure the future of climate education!

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Sample remarks to the issues staff member who is responsible for education and/or the environment or voicemail message to them:

I am [your name], I’m a resident of/work in [the congressional district/state], and I’m calling [as a teacher; a parent; I work at…; on behalf of myself and/or my organization, etc.] to urge the Representative/Senator to cosponsor the Climate Change Education Act, Senate bill S. 2704, or House bill H.R. 5606 (depends who you are calling).

Climate education, and environmental education in general is essential for our [district/community/state]. It engages students and the general public in real-world learning, and anticipates the issues related to climate that citizens will have to face together in the future. Climate education is an integral part of dealing with climate change.

I’d like to email some background material to you, and ask you to recommend that the Senator/Representative cosponsor this legislation. Should I send these materials directly to you or is there another person I should contact? Here is my email address and phone number:

Thank you for your help!

5/15/2018