

# Engaging with Policymakers

Ambassadors of Hope have a unique role in bringing Shared Hope tools to your legislators to assist them in drafting bills that will impact provision and protection for child and youth victims of sex trafficking.

Shared Hope has excellent published materials to SHARE with your state legislators or legislative aides.

You are in a position as a constituent to stress that juvenile sex trafficking is an important issue to you!

## 1

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

In the [Action Center](#) on the Shared Hope website ([www.sharedhope.org/takeaction](http://www.sharedhope.org/takeaction)), you will see if Shared Hope is already involved in supporting a bill in your state. If your state doesn't have any bills listed as actively working with Shared Hope, consider taking action on the federal bills that are listed.

We recognize there may be meaningful legislation that doesn't fit the scope of Shared Hope's Report Card framework. Feel free to advocate for those bills as a concerned citizen but not speaking as an Ambassador of Hope nor mentioning that you are connected to Shared Hope in any way so as not to cause confusion.

## 2

### REACHING OUT

If there are state bills listed for your ZIP code, click on the bill you wish to advocate for. Follow prompts to connect with your legislator. Scripts are provided for tweets or emails and, in some cases, phone calls.

**1. Introduce yourself.**

"I am a concerned citizen and trained volunteer Ambassador for Shared Hope International."

**2. Identify your purpose in calling.**

"I am calling to make an appointment with [name your lawmaker] to discuss ways our state laws could be stronger in addressing child and youth sex trafficking."

**3. Make an appointment, and ask for a confirmation email.**

## 3

### PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING

1. Share your state's grade from Shared Hope's latest Report Cards (<https://reportcards.sharedhope.org>) with your legislators and ask them to fight child sex trafficking.

2. At the bottom of your state's Report Card page, click the button and follow the prompts to send your lawmakers a copy of their state's Report Card.

3. Review your state's Report Card at <https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/>.

4. Print a copy of your state's full report (including the law Analysis Report) to take with you to the meeting. We suggest purchasing a plain red file folder to gather information about Shared Hope to leave with your legislator or their aide. Include your Ambassador business card with your contact information.

# 4

## AT THE MEETING

1. Your voice is important. Give them a reason to review the materials you've brought by informing them, "As a constituent in your district, I am passionate about laws that protect and provide for victims of child and youth sex trafficking. I've brought you information from Shared Hope International to consider for our state." Tell them briefly why you care about this issue, and if you have personal stories or connections with the issue, share those.

REMEMBER: Ambassadors of Hope are not qualified to make recommendations on legislation. Your role is to introduce your lawmaker to the Shared Hope policy team for technical assistance.

2. "To support your efforts to make our state laws more effective, I'd like to offer you the link to receive direct technical assistance from Shared Hope's policy team. You're able to fill out a request online, and someone from the policy team will contact you."

3. Show them the technical assistance handout in your file. Leave the information with them. Thank them for their time.

# 5

## AFTER MEETING, FOLLOW UP

Time to update the SHI Team!

1. Send an email to the Seionr Manager of Training with information on whom you met with and any other information or specific questions legislators had. Be sure to share anything you think the policy team should know. They will then contact your lawmaker.

## RESOURCES

### State-Specific Materials

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking (<https://reportcards.sharedhope.org>) contain a detailed explanation and analysis of each state's laws and specific recommendations, including the gaps that remain. You can also find and print for your legislator a 2-page summary of your state's laws and grade.

### Topical Materials

- Tools to Bring Justice: <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/>
- Non-criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses is one of our primary policy advocacy points:
- <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/non-crim/>

Ambassadors make a difference through our [online advocacy tools](https://www.sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/advocacy)  
([www.sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/advocacy](https://www.sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/advocacy))!