

# BEYOND ROE

## REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM LOBBY DAY

### LOBBYING 101

UNRESTRICT  
MINNESOTA

#### 1. PREPARING TO MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

**Assign roles within your group.** Determine ahead of time who will facilitate the legislator meeting, who will share a story, who will ask for support, and so on.

#### 2. DURING THE MEETING

- **Ask the legislator how much time they have.** Plan differently if you have 5 minutes or 15 minutes; don't let your legislator waste time talking about something unrelated to avoid tough questions;
- **Identify yourself.** Start the meeting by introducing yourself, identifying that you're a constituent, mentioning that you are part of UnRestrict Minnesota's lobby day, and stating the issue you are lobbying for. Ex: "My name is Jane Doe. I live at 123 Cherry Lane. I am here today because I want to tell you about how important abortion access is to me. I'd like you to support Bill X because it will make access to abortion easier in Minnesota."
- **Be firm on your position.** Your legislator represents you, so it's important to clearly share where you stand so that they can reflect your values and those of others in your district.
- **Speak from your heart.** Be genuine; there is no need to polish your story.
- **Leave room for silence.** After everyone in the group has gotten a chance to tell their story, give the legislator a chance to share their thoughts and feedback with the group.
- **Remember: legislators are people, too!** Although they represent us, we need to treat legislators with respect when engaging. If they are not in support of our issue, continue to share stories with them. If they are a champion, thank them!
- **End the discussion with a call to action.** "Can you count on your support for x, y, z?"

#### 3. AFTER THE MEETING

**Take notes immediately after the meeting.** You're gathering important intel! What was legislator X's position? What information did they share with you? What should UnRestrict know about your legislator based on the meeting? Anything we need to follow up on?