

“How To” Sign Up to be a Key Contact

Key contacts are family physician volunteers who establish relationships or cultivate already existing relationships with the state legislators from their district. When the need arises, those volunteers are asked to contact legislators about specific issues and legislation of importance to family physicians. Contacts vary and range in type from correspondence and phone conversations to e-mails and personal visits.

Our key contact effort has proven to be a very important element of the overall success of our legislative strategy. In fact our efforts have been nationally recognized by the American Academy of Family Physicians as a model communications tool for stimulating grassroots advocacy.

OAFP now primarily communicates electronically with key contacts issuing alerts through the Academy’s award winning *Weekly Family Medicine Update*. The *WFMU* also provides regular updates on legislation and general legislative news.

Electronic key contact alerts provide background information on the issue at hand, the message we need you to deliver to your legislator, clear instructions on how to contact your legislator and the timetable for delivering the message. For example, if the bill we are asking you to request support for is scheduled for a floor vote on Wednesday, we will tell you that.

Calls to action are carefully timed around issues at the Statehouse. Our legislative representative, David Paragas, may request help with an issue. The AAFP may request our assistance. The most important element of this effort is your participation.

While our e-newsletter gives the OAFP a prompt, efficient way to contact you with our need, the communication method you use with the legislator is your choice. Again, the task at hand will be outlined in an easy, instructional format – background, message, contact information and timetable.

Use the key contact volunteer form and sign up to be an advocate for family medicine today.