

# YOUTH in ACTION

## CAPITOL DAY

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

### *What is Lobbying?*

Despite the negative views of the words “lobby” and “lobbyist,” it is perfectly acceptable and encouraged for you to lobby the decision makers in your community. The word lobby simply means “to influence.” If you care about an issue and want your voice heard, you should lobby, or influence, someone who has control over that issue and can do something about it.

For example, if your school is old and falling apart, you could lobby your city council to increase funding to build new schools! You may lobby your state representative to change a state law on driving with cell phones. You could even lobby your member of Congress to lower the voting age to 16!

### How Do I Lobby?

Lobbying comes in a variety of forms. You can lobby with a simple phone call or e-mail to your city council members, or an in-person meeting with your legislator like the opportunity you have at YIA Capitol Day!

Types of lobbying that you or anyone can participate in:

- Make a phone call
- Send an e-mail or write a letter
- Meet in person with a legislator or his/her staff
- Organize a rally
- Give a speech
- Deliver testimony at a hearing

### Can I Lobby?

**Absolutely!** As a youth, your voice and your needs deserve to be heard just as much as they do for any other member of our society. With a little guidance, anyone can become a strong advocate for their issues.