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WHY I WON'T CONTACT MY LEGISLATOR

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We've all gotten the email that says something similar to "URGENT REQUEST! Contact your legislator now! The zombies will kill us all if you don't!" How many of you immediately stop what you're doing and make the contact? I would venture a guess it isn't many.

I'll admit, I've dropped the ball in this department before. There are a multitude of reasons we don't take action, but it's increasingly important that we get involved and do our part individually. Below are several of the excuses I've used, or heard from others, over the years. Hopefully by addressing these, we can help you feel more comfortable making the contact...and preserve the safety of your family from the zombies.

1. I don't know who my legislators are.

As crazy as this sounds, you aren't the only one in this boat. Many people don't know their legislators past a name on a ballot. While it's important to pay attention to the issues and get to know your legislators, it's also okay if you aren't there yet. You can easily look up your state senators and representatives [here](#). You can find your U.S. Representatives [here](#) and your U.S. Senators [here](#).

2. I don't know how to reach them.

Even when you're informed, the next roadblock is finding a way to make the contact. Most legislators have a website and an email address — and social media is becoming a very popular way to communicate. There are often links to contact information on the "Find Your Legislator" pages above.

3. I don't know what to say.

If you don't know a lot about a subject, it's ok to keep it simple (in fact it is usually better this way). Just inform your legislator about how the proposed bill could affect you and/or your family. Sometimes it's as simple as saying, "I'm opposed to (insert bill number)." This can be done via any of the options in #2.

4. I'm afraid they'll ask a question I don't have the answers to.

Believe it or not, legislators are regular people like everyone else. Each has his or her areas of interest or specialty, and they rely on well-informed constituents to get information about other issues. Some are very good on our issues, but they still appreciate hearing from voters in their districts. If they do ask a question that you don't have an answer to, just say, "I'm not sure. I'll

check and get back to you,” or just admit that you aren’t an expert and refer them to the Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) Board for more information.

5. I don’t have time. Somebody else will do it.

If you plan ahead and have the contact information for your legislators saved, it takes less than 10 minutes to make a call, send an email or register an opinion on a website or social media outlet. Most times, it can be done in a few minutes.

6. Isn’t that what the ISPA Board is for?

While the ISPA Board is very active, there is no substitute for local voters contacting their representatives. They want to know what *their* voters think, not what a paid lobbyist or board member from across the state thinks.

If you’ve read this far, you’re now prepared to make the contact when necessary. Don’t hesitate to contact a member of the ISPA Board if you ever have a question about this process, a particular bill or an issue you feel strongly about. We are happy to help and greatly appreciate members who get involved.