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117 CHESTNUT DRIVE • WAYNE • NJ 07470-5639

• ImpeachThem.com •

• info@impeachthem.com •

973 • 694 • 5035 | 862 • 226 • 6939 | FACS ATTN. JANE H 973 • 720 • 2585

FOLLOWING THROUGH: MAKING THE ALL-IMPORTANT CALLS

The references to the underlined sources are linked on the web at:

<http://impeachthem.com/?q=node/1969>

These are useful tips on how to make effective, persuasive and successful phone calls to the offices of the House Judiciary Committee members.

By Keith Armonaitis

Remember you do this for something far greater than yourself — you do this because you love America and want to see it back to its former glory.

Today I printed out the [House Judiciary Committee Members](#) — so I could begin my calling campaign. We have toll-free phone numbers posted on our site here, numbers that connect you to the Capitol switch board, where an operator will connect you with every congress member's office. There are more toll-free numbers available at CallCongress.org. **You can call all House Judiciary Committee member offices** — This site includes an instruction video. As I was doing this I realized that it is a difficult process, even for myself who is used to public speaking. I know that there are a lot of people who would be willing to make calls as well, but do not feel comfortable talking on the phone with someone they don't know or are too tongue tied when talking about something they feel so passionately about. This can be especially true when talking to members on the other side of the aisle who will want nothing at all to do with impeachment. Here are some of the things I do before I make my calls:

REMEMBER THE MAIN REASONS FOR YOUR CALL

When the capitol switchboard operator puts you through to the congress member's office and the receptionist answers, you explain that you want to leave messages for the **Chief of Staff** and the **Legislative Director** for the representative. Ask their names and email addresses (the form is joan.smith@mail.house.gov) and ask if they're available to talk to you. 99% of the time they won't be. That's okay; ask to be put through to the staff person's voice mail, and you can leave your message, your name, address and email address. It never hurts to say, "I would appreciate receiving an acknowledgment from you about my concerns."

1 — I write down what I want to say — This helps me to not get flustered when I make my calls and allows me to stay focused even when my blood starts to heat up. Also — try rehearsing what you want to say a few times — you may think it might make you sound stilted — but after 40 calls you will sound that way anyway. Plus it will help you smooth out words that are difficult to say (like "House Judiciary Committee" — I dare anyone to say that three times fast!)

2 — I try to remain calm and respectful — I know that I am only talking to a staffer, but they are closer to the ear of the person I want my message to get to and even if they treat me like I am an idiot (this has only happened once) I refer back to my notes and stay focused. Even if I start to get upset I still stay respectful — and on message. It's very good to tell the office receptionist you want to leave your message with him or her, and that "I want to leave my message with the representative's Chief of Staff" voice mail — this means you get your words to the most important person in the congress member's office.

3 — Don't try to make all of your calls at once — This is incredibly difficult, especially if you are working. The bigger benefit though is that you won't get as discouraged - or feel like you are a telephone solicitor, which in a way you are.

4 — Break up your calling by switching to different sides of the aisle — Calling a bunch of people in a row who are against your request can be daunting — switch over to people on your side of the argument to help pick yourself back up again.

5 — Reward yourself at different points in the calling process — I found in my last batch of calls that calling Wexler's office and telling his staff what a Patriot I think he is really picked me back up after talking to four Republican Congressmen in a row.

6 — Tailor your message — I try to couch things as someone who is concerned for the Congressperson's side of the story. I DO NOT lie — but I have told Republicans that the only chance I think they have of retaining the White House this election cycle is to clean up their own mess and hold Bush and Cheney accountable by impeaching them. I believe this wholeheartedly.

7 — Never ever threaten — Even if you are a constituent never say that they will not get your vote next time — or anything worse — it discounts your message and allows them to put you in TO BE IGNORED file.

8 — Most important of all — Remember that you are doing this for something far greater than yourself — you are doing this because you love America and want to see it back to its former glory.

These are my suggestions — take them or leave them — I present them as what I do when I am making my calls. If you have any comments, additions, suggestions I am hear to listen. Please feel free to offer your comments. And please send a note telling who you called & the response to info@impeachthem.com. THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!!!

Remember patriots, this is largely a numbers game. The more people who make the calls, the greater the pressure on the Judiciary Committee to find its spine. There is a point at which the committee will respond once they see a huge number of citizens want the impeachment our nation needs. This is why it's crucially important for everyone to try to recruit ten more people to join in this effort. If 50,000 Americans called everyone on the committee, we believe we'll get impeachment.