Tips for making an effective legislative visit:

- **Make it personal**: Talk about who you are and:
  1. Your experience with breast cancer
  2. Your personal experience with the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
  3. As someone working in the field
  4. As a concerned community member.

- **Do your homework**: Consult the fact sheets provided and know what you want to talk about and how it relates to your life story.

- **Don’t just complain**: Offer solutions. Talk about what is working and what can be improved.

- **Keep it short**: Make your recommendations succinct and to the point (plan for no more than 2 minutes).

- **Make your Ask**: Always end with a direct, concrete request, for example “Can I count on your support for funding the IBCCP?” Wait and listen for a response.

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**WORKSHEET TO PREPARE LEGISLATIVE VISIT TALKING POINTS**

**Introduction:**

*Name:*

*Hometown:*

*Background info about me:*

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**Funding cuts to the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) are:**

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**The IBCCP is personally important to me because (my story):**

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**The consequences of not supporting full funding for IBCCP are:**

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**To address these needs, policymakers should (consult fact sheet):**

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**The Asks:**

1. Vote YES to maintain $11 million for IBCCP and protect the lives of Illinois women.
3. Vote YES to increase the minimum buying age for tobacco products in Illinois to 21 years.
Introduction:

Name: Jane Doe

About my community: Lifelong resident of Englewood in Chicago, IL

Background info about me: I am 49 years old and have a family history of breast cancer. My whole family lives in the Englewood neighborhood. I am a single mother of 2 daughters and work for a small company that does not offer health insurance.

Funding cuts to the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP): Directly affect women like myself. In Illinois, the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) provides free cancer screenings to women who are uninsured. Because Latinas and African American women are more likely to be uninsured, they rely more often on this program here in Chicago.

This issue is personally important to me because (my story):

My mother and grandmother are breast cancer survivors, so I know the importance of having an annual mammogram. If it wasn’t for the IBCCP I wouldn’t be able to afford a mammogram.

The consequences of not supporting full funding for IBCCP are:

In the past, IBCCP has run out of funding for screening mammograms after only 4 months. For a program that is already underfunded, cuts could leave many women like me without access to preventive health screenings.

To address these needs, policymakers should:

Commit to funding IBCCP and implementing the Treatment Act to ensure that uninsured women can receive their recommended annual screenings for breast and cervical cancer and if needed can access affordable high quality treatment care.
Commit to supporting legislation that deters smoking in young people.

The Asks:

1. Vote YES to maintain $11 million for IBCCP and protect the lives of Illinois women.
3. Vote YES to increase the minimum buying age for tobacco products in Illinois to 21 years.