**State Legislative Story Sharing Template**

We know storytelling can be intimidating. This template is meant to help guide you through the process of thinking through the story you will share in a meeting with a policy maker. This template is for policy makers at the state level. Your story is your story - it’s personal and you should share your experience in a way that feels good to you. Don’t feel like you have to write this one specific way. That said, here are some general guidelines and recommendations to help you get started. [You can look at](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GRD_1_i6OGBTd-par9HY-RTaPfshgW7MsROiOTOqCVA/edit) a sample story here.

**If you are meeting with an elected official this story will likely need to be shared in a meeting that only last 15 - 30 minutes. Your story should be able to be shared in 3 minutes. It can be good to have a 1 minute version handy in case time runs short as well.**

**Once you have your story drafted. Make sure to practice reading it multiple times and get comfortable with it.**

*\*The bottom of this document also includes a section to prepare you for if we have less time than anticipated to share our message\**

**Start with an introduction (1-3 sentences)**

* Explain who you are:
  + *“I am a working mother of 3 in Norfolk.” “I am a concerned Nebraska veteran”*
  + Share what city you live in and let them know if you are a constituent of theirs
* Explain what you’re talking about:
  + *“I am here today to discuss the importance of SNAP, and my concerns about losing SNAP protections.”*
  + *“ I wanted to share my experience with the barriers I have faced to accessing the support my family needs and how passing (BILL NAME/POLICY NAME) will help.”*
* State why it matters to you:
  + *“As someone who has relied on SNAP to feed my family, I know how important it is to keep this program accessible to Nebraskans”*

**Share your experience/what you think about this issue (3-5 sentences)**

* If you are personally impacted:
  + You can spend this section diving a bit deeper into your story.
  + Share what you’ve experienced and the impacts it has had on your life.
  + Describe your feelings and paint a picture of what life was like when you were navigating this challenge.
* If you know someone who is personally impacted:
  + Consider talking more about what the policy does. *“The MEAL Act is an important opportunity for Congress to strengthen SNAP, by ensuring people with certain drug related felonies can also receive SNAP benefits.”*
  + Talk about what it is like to work with/be friends with someone navigating this issue. *“In my work, I talk with people almost daily who can’t access SNAP. It’s heartbreaking to be the person they come to for help and to not have any resources to offer them.”*
  + Name your values and why you believe others who share that value should care about your issue. *“As someone who believes every person deserves a second chance, it’s important that we make sure our laws give people the opportunity to make a fresh start with the resources they need.”*

**Concluding sentences (1-2 sentences)**

* This section should EXPLICITLY state your stance on the issue and have a call to action
* Ex: *“LB 88 supports Nebraska’s working families by helping them to keep food on the table, we ask that you support the passage of LB 88.”*

In some instances, we may have more limited time with your elected officials or staff. It is good to prepare a 1 min version of things you’d like to highlight in case the need arises.

**How to prepare a quick version:**

* Who you are (name, job, are you a parent to/daughter/son of…)
* Where you live
* What bill/issue you want to see pass/not pass (specific bills or policies)
* Why it matters to you (personal experience and your values that relate to these bills)
* Thank you