



HOW TO USE THE LOZIER REPORT TO CONNECT WITH POLITICIANS

EPISODE NOTES

What Does It Mean? You Are Not Alone:

1. You stand with hundreds of thousands of donors, volunteers, staff and former clients of pregnancy help organizations—that is a powerhouse of wisdom, power and life-saving work.
2. You have influence. You can't look at these numbers and not realize your action and care are expressed every time a woman is helped and every time a baby is saved.
3. You help change the culture of your community and your efforts are multiplied thousands of times across the nation.

Political Influence - Your Leadership Role

1. We don't focus on political activities as our main goal, but we are certainly influenced by the political activities; therefore, we must at least focus on educating elected officials and legislators.
2. Most things in life are about relationships. If elected officials —whether local, state or national —don't know your organization, the stories of your center, and you as a leader of a community organization, their perception of your center is likely driven by the mainstream media and the anti-life agenda. You can change that!

Getting Started - You can Connect

1. Remember, elected officials do not have all the information they need. They rely on input and relationships:
 - A. Your voice is critical to the process.
 - B. Relationships are critical to everything in life, so develop relationships with your legislators and elected officials.
 - i. Show up to their offices.

- ii. Call when life issues arise and you want your elected official to know more about the issue.
 - iii. Send notes of encouragement or prayers so the only time they hear from you isn't when you want them to vote a certain way. Influence them long before the vote so they will listen to you when it is critical.
- C. Create opportunities to educate legislators.
- i. Invite them for a tour of your organization and include staff, volunteers, board member and client stories in that tour.
 - ii. Invite them to your events—celebrate elected officials who invest their time.
 - iii. Visit local offices of legislators and elected officials.
 - iv. Visit legislators in their state and national offices.
 - v. Develop relationships with legislative aides and influencers within the offices.
 - vi. Be a resource of local, state and national statistics and information regarding the issues you impact like abortion, teen pregnancies, fatherless families, low birth weight babies, single parent families, under-educated single moms, etc. You don't have to memorize them, but know where to find that data —especially your state data which is found through your state health department website.

Babies Go to Congress (BGTC)

1. This event brings the beauty and truth of pregnancy center work and client stories to the offices at the Capitol.
 - A. Centers pick a client who has a great story and has given her testimony in other settings. Ideal clients would be those who:
 - i. Have a powerful change of heart and have chosen life for their babies
 - ii. Can tell a story of life change through ongoing mentoring, coaching and support
 - iii. Show on-going strength and resilience such as finishing college, starting a business, or getting involved in their community.
2. BGTC is a game changer because it opens the eyes of legislators to the impact of centers in their communities.
3. BGTC is an event that could be replicated and used at the state level as well.
4. Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 BGTC event in January. Limited space is available.

Remember, leading involves a variety of uncomfortable places. As a leader, you are often called to cross that great divide between fear and comfort. As you cross the bridge to take small steps to educate your legislators, you will see how that influence strengthens the culture of life in your community as well as you state and nation.

Walk kindly, boldly and with the confidence that the services you provide are replicated across the nation.

PODCAST RESOURCES

- [Babies Go to Congress](#)
- [Webinar: Public Speaking Anxiety](#)
- (Affiliates Only) [Guidelines for Political Activities of Not-for-Profit Organizations](#)
- (Affiliates Only) [Community Impact Report Example](#)