

ENGAGEMENT TALKING POINTS



When speaking as a foundation employee, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- If your audience includes government officials, especially legislators, it is very important that you review the content of the meeting in advance to check to see if the topic of the meeting is legislation or a specific legislative proposal.
- Commenting on legislation or legislative proposals in the presence of a legislator is lobbying!
- Not all legislators know about this rule for private foundations so if you are in a meeting with a legislator and they ask your opinion on legislation, explain to them that you can't comment.
- Consider using this as a basis for your own personal talking points:
 - *"I would love to provide my comments. Unfortunately, private foundations and their employees are prohibited by law from commenting on specific legislation. The Foundation could lose its tax exempt status or face penalties if it conducts lobbying. Therefore, I won't be able to provide feedback on this legislative proposal."*
- Even if your audience doesn't include government officials, you need to be sure that the content does not include a "call to action." As a quick reminder, a "call to action" would include statements for them to call their legislators or would include providing the legislators' contact information.