



Maine Health Care Association Facility Tour Guide

1. Invite the Legislator

Your elected representatives may have never been inside a long term care facility. They may also not fully understand the amount of care you provide, the enriching services you offer, or the passion your staff invests in their daily work. A tour is a great way to remedy this.

You can invite elected officials by phone, mail, or email. Their contact information can be found at <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ContactYourLegislator>. And as always, MHCA is here to help support the facility tour process. Just let us know!

2. Prepare for the Visit

Notify your staff that a legislator will be touring the facility. Your team may have suggestions on ways to enhance the tour. If meetings are planned, it is helpful to prepare everyone with talking points about pending legislation that you support or oppose.

3. Provide the Tour

Start the tour in a quiet location to discuss the current situation of long term care in Maine and how your legislator might help. Have problems and solutions in mind, and be sure to know if there are any relevant bills that may meet these needs. Avoid using industry jargon and assuming the legislator already knows the issues at hand. Be prepared with facts that your legislator may care about, such as occupancy rates, costs of care, and staffing requirements. After talking about the issues, the tour can be done like you would for a potential new resident or family member.

Consider hosting a special opportunity for the residents to meet the representative. Options include facilitating a breakfast, lunch, or another centralized and interactive activity.

Remember to take photos! These are great to post on your website, social media, or to share with MHCA.

4. Always Follow-up

Send a thank you note. If any legislative issues were discussed, consider recapping those talking points and bills in the message.

Let MHCA know about the event and about any conversations of advocacy importance.

<https://www.mehca.org/advocacy>

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