

tips for med and pre-med students who want to advocate for gun violence prevention efforts

SO YOU WANT TO ADVOCATE FOR: GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION



DEPOLITICIZE YOUR LANGUAGE

Framing your argument within the scope of “gun safety” is less polarizing than speaking about “gun violence.” Likewise, promoting meaningful conversation will be more successful with language that proposes solutions instead of focusing on problems.



KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Who are you talking to? Does your Representative or Senator have prior statements or a pattern of behavior regarding firearm policy? Frame your conversation in a way that will leave your listener receptive and realistic about your requests.



USE A "PUBLIC HEALTH" LENS

Understand that as a future physician, you have a vested interest in protecting community health. You have specialized training in understanding evidence-based decision making. Support your statements with public health research that is pertinent to the voting district of your Representative/Senator.



MAKE IT PERSONAL

Share your own experiences in dealing with firearm violence in your community. Anecdotes, whether personal or from clinical experience, make a conversation more intimate and memorable. With so much talk about statistics, it's important to remember the impact of gun violence on a personal level.



EDUCATE YOURSELF

The first step in creating meaningful discourse is to understand the breadth of a topic. As pre-med/med-students, you have access to research that facilitates an understanding of health issues and a conceptualisation of the scope of the problem.



HAVE FUN!

Enjoy yourself!

Learn from each experience and remember that advocating for your patients is a critical responsibility of future providers in protecting community health. Best of luck on your advocacy endeavors!