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awareness about the important work that the library does. Therefore, it is beneficial for you to be proactive and seek out opportunities for positive interaction, and to create a process that allows you to educate and inform them about key issues relating to libraries and teens. Don't forget that the elected officials staff are also important to engage with.

- . So) e easy ways to connect with your elected officials

- Follow them on social media
- Add them to your library's newsletter mailing list
- Provide them and/or their children with a library card
- Send cards or notes for important occasions, like congratulating them on getting elected ;this could also be a good activity for teen patrons
- Put a photo of them up in the break room, so that staff will recognize them if/when they come to the library

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- Ask them to support a resolution about the importance of libraries. Instructions and a sample resolution can be found here:
www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/ResolutionForLibraries.docx

PART III: MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Meeting face-to-face with elected officials can provide a very effective and valuable opportunity to voice your concerns, share your views about a legislative issue and to ask the official to support or oppose a particular bill. Not surprisingly, there are a number of ways that you can make a success or a failure out of a meeting. Keep in mind that you don't necessarily need to travel far for a meeting.

Congresspersons are in their home states in August and during holidays, and state legislators spend most of the year home in their districts. To find out when they're available visit <http://www.thomas.loc.gov/home/schedules.html> or your state legislature's

- Why . eens Ceed Libraries brochure?
www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/professionaltools/andouts/districtdaysFweb.pdf

6. Be on ti) e ' 7e fle8i7le %it&yo! r ti) e
 , on-t be late, even by 6ust a few minutes G it may mean you miss your meeting entirely. If you think you may be delayed, be sure to call ahead and let them know. In addition, be fle=ible during your meeting. Interruptions can occur, and you may need to communicate your views while walking with your elected official to another meeting.

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