

An America and [State] that Works for All of Us

Writing a Short Speech by a Member of a State Legislature

“Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. I’m _____, the state rep in [towns/county]. It’s great to be here with you today. Today I want to talk to you about how together we build a [State] and America that works for all of us, not just *the wealthy and select few*. A [State] where our families and communities can thrive, regardless of circumstances we are born into.

and/or another entity that is responsible for our problems and which contrasts with “all of us.”

“As I talk with families throughout [geographic area you represent], I meet so many working and middle class families whose wages can’t keep up with the cost of living who worry about how to secure a bright future for their families.”

Give examples of what that means for people’s lives, ones most moving for your district and related to the issues you are championing. Be sure that in choosing those, you relate to the specific audience you are addressing.

e.g. I talked with a Mom in [town] who couldn’t afford take afford to take a time off when her child was born.

But this is no accident. Explain what the problem is in simple, values language. *For most issues, point out who is responsible and what they do that is bad.*

e.g. Too many jobs today don’t provide paid family leave.... Fossil fuels companies put their profits before our health.

And you know what, it doesn’t have to be this way. Over the decades, [Staters] have worked together to make our families and towns thrive. That’s why we must *[amplify your quest and what value it will achieve. But DO NOT propose specific policies - that’s coming up.]*

e.g. be sure we tackle the climate crisis now to safeguard the health of or families and communities. .

Examples of values are: family; opportunity; security; freedom; strong communities.

What I always remember is that working people and the middle class are the engines of our economy. When we have good jobs so that we can care for and support our families. When we can afford health care and retire in security, we drive our economy forward and build thriving communities.

We'll build a strong middle class in [State] by decisions we make together. That's why I'm working in [State Capital] to rewrite the rules to so that are families and communities can thrive.

To do that we need to [Talk about your top priority issues, which address the problems you've identified. Be sure that every solution is connected to a value-based goal.]

e.g. Join our neighboring states in taking concrete actions, with real goals, towards dramatically reducing carbon pollution.

Of course I won't be able to do this alone. The powerful benefit by dividing the rest of us by our race or gender or where we come from, while they rig the economic rules in their favor. But we can come together across racial and other differences to build a [State] that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few and well-connected. In [State] we know that our success depends on the success of those around us. Our communities thrive when everyone thrives.

The big question we face is who our government works for? The wealthy and powerful or working families in the middle class? I need you to join me in urging my fellow representatives in [State Capital] to stand up for everyday [staters]. A [State] with thriving towns and a bright future for all our children.

It's up to us, together, to be sure that every family in [State] can earn a good life, every child has the chance for a bright future, that communities all across our beautiful state thrive for us and the next generation. With your help, we can build an America and [State] that works for all of us.

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