

# HOW TO KICK BUTT AND LITERALLY TAKE NAMES

1. Make your petition more than an emotional plea. We are humans and our situation is excruciatingly emotional so the emotion is to be expected. But these decisions are being made on a mathematical and scientific basis, not a humanitarian one. So as you word your petition, be a human first but also become an expert on what is and has taken place in your state. Check state websites, google, read media reports and make sure you know what your state has done, is doing, and may be proposing to do. People signing your petition want to think you are an expert. You need to sound like one. Sound like one long enough and you may become one.
2. Always assume your legislators and state officials or their staff members are reading what you put out on the web. Because once you start making enough noise, they will be.
3. Use the updated version of our petition (we had to add wording once our state put in what they call Phase 1 re-opening guidelines that our group calls a re-definition of window visits) as a guideline to look for different kinds of information you need to pull from your own state. But it's a guideline. Your state is unique. Your petition should be also.
4. My petition was on change dot org. I don't know if it matters which online petition you use. I'm not experienced enough to tell you. But an online petition is necessary in our virtual world.
5. Spend every waking hour outside your fulltime job or when you're not homeschooling kids or chasing grandkids and go find people like you, not just on the Caregivers for Compromise group (that didn't exist when I started my petition) but on social media platforms anywhere people are talking about long term care and share your petition and invite people to your group page.
6. Go on your local news station pages and wherever there is a story about long term care on facebook or twitter, comment and share your petition and your group page. Check AARP and your local Alzheimer's pages as well. Never go back and check the comments because there will be plenty of "you just wanna kill granny" remarks or comments about how ignorant you are and you don't need that. Never look at that nonsense. If they have questions, they can come to your group and find the answers.
7. Periodically, remind your group members to be sharing the petition with their friends and asking those friends to share it as well. And ALWAYS remind them to only solicit signers from your own state. You don't need a book full of out-of-staters when you mail it to a governor or health official. They don't want people from other states telling them what to do.
8. Look for other online petitions like yours and contact THOSE petitioners to team up with you. If they do, choose which petition is the most successful, focus on circulating that one and stop promoting the others. They will still get signers from people doing searches but you don't want to circulate three or four identical petitions because then you're competing, getting duplicate names, and you look shady to those officials I said earlier would be creeping in your group. When you print your petition to mail it, you will want to combine those other petitions as well. Every name counts.
9. Never stop researching. You must be 100% current at all times so when you start bragging in your group about how big your petition is and the media shows up, you are ready for them.
10. Make up the rest as you go. GOOD LUCK!