

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATOR



PRIOR TO YOUR MEETING

- Relax and remember that you are the bleeding disorders expert! Educating members and their staff is an important part of advocating.
- Be prepared!
 - Know your talking points.
 - If you would like, prepare a one page “leave behind” with your story, pictures of your family, how bill/rule/funding affects you.
- Know your “Roles” before the meeting.
- Make it local.
- Make it personal - How does this bill/rule/funding affect you specifically?
- Know what your “ask” is: *“We’d like you to support this bill, sign this letter, co-sponsor this legislation, request a hearing, preserve/add funding, etc.”*

DURING THE MEETING

- Be flexible!
- Introduce yourself.
- Give a brief background on your bleeding disorder and how it has affected you.
- Discuss the issue.
- Leave behind information.
- Ask for a **PHOTO!**

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- If you are uncertain of the answer to a question, offer to follow-up with them and give them more information. It’s a great way to build a relationship with them and their staff.
- Offer to be a resource about all things bleeding disorders.
- Be sure to thank them — both at the meeting, and with a follow-up thank you note.
- Take a business card!
- Leave your contact information.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Be sure to send any follow-up information you promised.
- Send a thank you note!
- Be sure to email the person you met with directly. You can attach your leave behind again if you wish.
- If you met with the legislator in person, email his staff, attach a thank you letter to the email.
- Follow the issue!
- Track legislation in your state:
<http://cqrcengage.com/hemophilia/>

HFA is here to support your advocacy! Contact us at advocacy@hemophiliafed.org
www.hemophiliafed.org