

Helpful Tips for a Successful Hill Visit

- ❖ You are the expert! No one knows more about audiology than you do. Be confident in your ability to promote the Profession.
- ❖ Prepare for the visit by reading up on the issues, but do not get overwhelmed by legislative details. Do not be afraid to say “I don’t know.” Academy staff can easily follow-up with congressional staff to answer any additional questions.
- ❖ Learn about the issues using resources on the Academy Web site. The Legislative Action Center (<https://www.audiology.org/get-involved/advocacy/legislative-action-center>) offers a listing of current legislation, links to editable letters, and a search function to help you easily identify your member of Congress.
- ❖ Visit the Congressional Issues page at: <http://www.audiology.org/advocacy/federal/congressionalissues/Pages/default.aspx> for additional information on the Academy’s legislative priorities including issue briefs, endorsement letters, and other documents to help you on your visit.
- ❖ Introduce yourself. Visit the district or home office of your senator or representative. Meet with staff and tell them about the Profession. Explain how your work as an audiologist impacts the community. Talk about the issues important to you.
- ❖ Find a common thread. Do you and your senator or representative share the same alma mater? Have friends in common? Hail from the same hometown? Adding a personal touch helps to strengthen the connection.
- ❖ Set political differences aside. We don’t all agree on political issues, but we are unified in our mission to promote audiology-related legislation. Even if you didn’t vote for your representative or senator, their support is still important.
- ❖ Be cognizant of the time. Make sure you are on-time for your meetings and, if you are running behind, call the office to let them know. Ask the member of Congress or staff member how much time they have to meet. If you would like to continue the dialogue, consider this visit a first step in developing a relationship with your member’s office. You can always follow-up via e-mail, telephone, or by scheduling another visit.
- ❖ Become involved! Attend town hall meetings in your district. Host a fundraiser. Engage other audiologists in your congressional district. Work with the Academy to schedule a site visit, inviting the member of Congress to your practice setting to get a firsthand glimpse of what you do.