



Conducting a District Office Visit

- 1. Introduce yourself:** Start with the basics. Tell the member of Congress or the staff person where you are from in the district, how long you have lived there, where you work and what you do.
- 2. Gauge their level of understanding:** Not all visits are created equal. Sometimes staffers or members of Congress may be more familiar with audiology-related legislation than others. Tailor your visit accordingly. This may entail providing more detail on what an audiologist does and how issues may impact constituents in the district.
- 3. Get down to business:** If the member of Congress is already a co-sponsor of the legislation, say thank you. If they are not, present the legislation and get your “ask” out right away. For example, “I’m here to talk about legislation that would allow Medicare beneficiaries direct access to audiology services. I was hoping the Congressman would sign on as a co-sponsor.”
- 4. Keep it simple:** Highlight the basics of the legislation. Trying to remember every detail can be overwhelming. Stay within your comfort zone. It’s okay to say, “I don’t know, but I can get back to you.” Academy staff can help you with your follow-up response or can be a resource in answering any remaining questions.
- 5. What can you do?** A good way to end the meeting is to ask the staff person what the Profession can do to get the member of Congress’ support. Feedback often includes showing grassroots support for legislation through constituent letters and phone calls, or simply providing more information on the bill.
- 6. Provide materials:** Bring some business cards, issue briefs (available on the Academy’s Web site), and other relevant information. Leave these materials behind to encourage follow-up.
- 7. Stay informed:** Ask the staff person how you can keep up-to-date on district events and updates.