

NATIONAL ADVOCACY WEEK 2022

OCT. 10-14

Talk to Your Representative

Your local, state, and federal representatives represent you and want to hear from you. [Find your representative](#) and connect with them – make a phone call, write a letter, or talk to them in-person. You can also invite them to speak at your medical school.

The [AMA's Guide to Physician Advocacy](#) uncovers the ins and outs of communication with Congress and provides tips on how you can make your voice heard through social media, letters, emails and phone calls to Congress. Excerpts have been provided below for your convenience.

In-person:

1. Set up a meeting

Phone call script

Placing calls to congressional district offices can be intimidating, especially if you've never done it before. You don't need to read the following word-for-word when you call, rather it's meant to serve as a basic outline of what you ought to say. Reach out to Kylee Borger at 202-789-7424 (office phone), 714-944-0481 (cell) or kylee.borger@ama-assn.org if there are any questions or concerns.

- Could you please direct me to the member of your staff who handles scheduling for your district office? (*Wait for those directions, to be transferred, etc.*)
- (*If speaking to a new person*) Hello, my name is [NAME] and I am calling on behalf of the medical students at [Medical School].
- We would like the opportunity to schedule a virtual or in-person meeting in the district with [REP./SEN. NAME] during the week of October 10-14 as a part of our Medical Student National Advocacy Week to discuss the following [choose one, two, or all three topics to discuss]
 - **Telehealth Coverage**
 - **Prior Authorization**
 - **Student Loans repayment counting towards retirement account contribution**

- I am available to provide additional information that you may require, and we are happy to accommodate [REP./SEN. NAME]’s schedule, if that week does not work well.

- (*If the Rep./Sen. is unavailable*) Would it be possible for us to meet with the staff member who handles topics related to health care?

- (*When you get a meeting date*) I appreciate your assistance in arranging this meeting. Is there an email address or phone number where I can contact you to confirm the meeting as the date approaches? Thank you very much, have a great day!

2. **Prepare for your meeting:**

Meeting with a member of Congress or their congressional staff is an effective way to discuss issues and legislative priorities. Meeting with a member’s staff, such as the health legislative assistant, can be just as productive as meeting with the member. Careful planning and having clear goals for the meeting are key to conducting a successful in-person visit.

- Review the issues (check out the “Educate yourself on the Issues” section below or on the web page) and research the position of your member of Congress. If they already support one of the bills, thank them during your visit.
- Be specific – directly ask your member of Congress or their congressional staff to support the specific bills/positions in the issue briefs; Or, if they already have supported the bills/positions we are advocating for, thank them.

3. **After the visit:**

- Ask the representative or staffer if you can take photos and tag them on social media
- Follow up after the meeting by writing an email or letter that thanks the member and/or staff for their time, includes any photos taken, and recaps agenda items and reiterates any requests
- Update us (email me – Kylee at kylee.borger@ama-assn.org) about how the meeting went and if the representative had any questions that AMA staff can help follow-up with

Send Emails and Letters

Reading feedback from constituents is something many members of Congress prioritize, and most offices keep tally of feedback they receive on particular issues. Written correspondence is most impactful if it includes personal stories and original thoughts. Use the Physician’s Grassroots Network tool to generate an email to all of your state and federal representatives – you can use [this tool](#) to compose an email without searching for individual office email addresses.

Make Phone Calls

Phone calls to your members’ district or Capitol Hill office are a great way to voice your concerns and ask questions about legislative issues. Although you will rarely speak directly to the member, congressional staffers should know the member’s position on particular issues and will relay your concerns to the member.