Hill Meetings 101

Haley Smoot, Director of Public Policy
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• 1 representative per district
• # based on population
• 435 voting members
• 6 non-voting members (e.g. DC, PR, etc.)
• 2-year terms

• 2 senators per state
• 100 total
• 6-year terms
• 1/3 of seats up for election every two years
117th Congress

House of Representatives
- 435 representatives
  - 220 Democrats
  - 210 Republicans
  - 5 vacant seats
  - 6 non-voting members (e.g. PR, DC)

Senate
- 100 senators
  - 48 Democrats
  - 2 Independents (caucus with Ds)
  - 50 Republicans
  - VP Harris casts tie-breaking votes
How Congress Works
How a Bill (Usually) Becomes a Law

1. Bill is introduced in committee
2. Committee* hearings
   • Expert testimony
3. Committee* mark-up
   • Amendments
4. Committee* votes
5. Full chamber for floor vote

*or subcommittee
What Role Do Advocates Play?
**DOs for Hill Meetings**

- Be prepared
- Be on time
- Be flexible
- Be respectful
- Be concise

- Share the spotlight
- Be responsive
- Be appreciative
- Use social media
- Follow up
DON’Ts for Hill Meetings

- Overload the Hill visit with too many issues
- Expect your legislator or staffer to be an expert on the issue
- Be afraid to say “I don’t know”
- Be offended if your legislator is unable to meet with you
- Confront, threaten, or pressure
The Meeting

• Brief introductions
  • Share your name, city, connection to cancer, and that you’re an NCCS advocate
• State the purpose of the meeting
  • Share what you’re advocating for
• Share your story
• Make the ask
  • OR thank them if they already support what you’re advocating for
After the Meeting

- Tweet to thank your legislator for the meeting and restate the ask
- Send thank you emails with responses to any outstanding questions
- Follow up with staff on action items, if any
- If your Member takes action, thank them and their staff
Maintaining Relationships – Stay Engaged!

• Subscribe to the legislator’s email list and follow on social media
• Don’t be afraid to check in with staff regularly
• Serve as a resource on cancer issues
• Invite your Member to local cancer community events in your hometown
• Thank them for co-sponsoring legislation
• Schedule in-district meetings
• Attend town hall meetings
Questions?

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