



Catholic Social Ministry
Gathering
Washington, D.C.



Quick Tips For
Advocacy

Arranging Your Visit

- Find your member of Congress at votervoice.net/USCCB/home.
- Set up your meeting up **at least** two weeks in advance.
- Confirm your visit via email soon after making the appointment, and again by phone the day before you are scheduled to meet.

When Scheduling a Visit

- Stress that you are a constituent.
- Ask for 30 minutes and expect 10-15.
- Clearly state the issue(s) you would like to discuss and the group you represent.
- If the Senator or Representative is not available, ask for the Legislative Director (LD) or a Legislative Assistant (LA).



Preparing for Your Visit

Learn About Your Legislator

- Press Releases
- Website
- Public Statements

What arguments will be most persuasive?

Gather Local Information on Issues

How do the issues impact the people and families in your parish, diocese, and Church programs?

Come up with a “Game Plan”

A succinct agenda and clear message focuses attention and improves advocacy.

- Assign roles to everyone in the group
- Hone talking points
- Always get to the ASK and try to secure a hard commitment

Reflect

How does this connect to your faith? Do not be afraid to share this. The most important thing to get across in your visit is that you care about these issues.



During Your Visit

Be on Time, Positive, and Friendly

- Arrive a little early.
- Introduce yourself and your group.
- Know your agenda and stick to your message.
- Explain how this issue affects you and the community.
- Take notes of the discussion and names of staff.
- Take a photo with the member and get a quote for a press release.
- Thank the legislator or staff.
- Give the office your USSCB leave-behind packet and invitations.

Keep your message simple and to the point

You may only have 10-15 minutes, so make them count.

Following Your Visit

- Debrief with your group.
- Complete the *Hill Visits Report Form* for each visit.
- Send a thank-you note or e-mail.
- Finalize your press release and send it to the media.
- Blog or tweet about your meeting.