



# PHPN Advocacy Day 2019

## Tips for a Successful Legislative Visit

Thanks for taking the time to visit Members of Congress during the 2019 PH Professional Network Advocacy Day! Here are a few quick tips to help make your visits a success.

- 🔥 **Begin with a thank you.**
- 🔥 **Plan what to say.** Each member of the group should state their name, institution and where they are from. Group members, especially constituents, should briefly define PH and share examples from their experience related to the key requests (see below). If possible, before your visit plan with your group who will begin the conversation and who will share their story in each meeting.
- 🔥 **Be flexible.** Each Member of Congress has a legislative assistant (LA) who focuses on health issues. LA's are knowledgeable, dedicated staff members who are worth talking to. Don't be disappointed if you end up speaking with an LA rather than your representative.
- 🔥 **State your request!** Depending on time, you will make between one and three asks:
  1. Streamline access to life-saving medication.
  2. Protect patient use of non-profit charitable assistance programs.
  3. Fund a PH awareness and epidemiology program through the CDC.
- 🔥 **Emphasize the PH community's reach.** If you're making a visit without a constituent of that Member of Congress, emphasize that you are there to represent the many PHers who can't travel to an event like this. Emphasize that you represent not only yourself, but the members of your Support Group and/or the patients you treat. If relevant, you can also refer to the list of PHA supporters by state or district included in your packets.
- 🔥 **Request a photo.** Ask if your Member of Congress is available to take a photo with you as a way to get a few minutes of face time if they are in the office. If you do get a photo, don't be shy about posting it on social media and tagging the Member of Congress.
- 🔥 **Take notes on questions.** Write down any questions that you can't answer on your visit tracking sheet and return it to a PHA staff person.
- 🔥 **Restate your requests and end with a thank you.**