

PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICE VISIT

It may seem a little intimidating to think about meeting with your member of Congress. Still, please realize that several studies of Congressional staff prove that an in-person visit leaves more of an impression on the member of Congress than any other influence strategy (phone call, email, letter). Ordinarily, you would call and schedule a meeting with your legislator, but we believe it is best to find their office hours and visit them accordingly because of the nature of these meetings.

Meeting with the Representative is essential, but meeting with a member of the Representative's staff is equally valued. Before the meeting, make sure you have gone over NRLC's talking points and that you will be able to explain your concerns about taxpayer-funded abortion. Have a way to take notes to write down what they have to say.

Arriving At the Office

Introduce and identify yourself as a constituent.

Please specify that you are there to speak to them about taxpayer-funded abortion and the urgency of saving the Hyde Amendment.

Tell them you want them to support any bill or legislation that saves the Hyde Amendment (talking points).

Take notes when they respond.

Please provide additional details about why they should support the Hyde Amendment (talking points).

Offer to be a resource on this issue; give them your card or your limited contact information (mobile number and email).

Thank them for their time and remind them you will follow up as it gets closer to approving Hyde Amendment language.

After The Meeting

In the short term, send a thank you email to the staffer shortly following the meeting. Be sure to respond to any questions you couldn't answer in the discussion and provide any follow-up information you promised. Remind staff again how vital this issue is to the district.

Follow Through – Plus Five Saves Hyde

Please know that by visiting your Congressman's office, you have fulfilled an age-old civic responsibility on the most important issue of our time – the fight to save the lives of unborn children by ensuring the Hyde Amendment is left intact. Now, it is equally important to find others in your community, in your family, or at work who share your pro-life values and encourage them to visit your local Congressman's office. If you can find five individuals who are willing to call them, e-mail them, and even visit them as you just have, our impact on saving the Hyde Amendment grows exponentially. Please help us get others involved.

Thank you.