

CATHOLICS ENCOUNTERING CONGRESS

QUICK TIPS SHEET

WHY DO A HILL VISIT?

- You are a constituent.
- Your Catholic voice matters and can advance the common good.
- You can build relationships with policy makers.
- You can be a resource for your members of Congress.



SCHEDULING A VIRTUAL VISIT

- CSMG state captains will make appointments with your senators and let you know how to connect in advance.
- Meetings may last from 10-30 minutes.

PREPARING FOR YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT

- Learn about your legislator through: Website, Press Releases, Public Statements, News.
- Gather local information on issues.
 - How do the issues impact you, people and families in your community, Church programs?
- Share stories.
 - Stories have the most impact with Congress and show how much you care about these issues.
 - How do these issues connect to your faith?
- Come up with a "Game Plan".
 - Work with your CSMG state captain on a succinct agenda/clear message.
 - Know your assigned role.
 - Review talking points for the "Asks" and backgrounders provided by USCCB.
 - Practice getting to the "Asks" and try to secure a hard commitment.



DURING YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT

- Connect to the meeting 5-10 minutes early.
- Be positive and friendly.
- CSMG state captain will introduce the group and invite all to say their names and where they are from.
- Know your agenda and your role. Stick to the message.
- Explain how the issues affect you and your community.
- Keep it simple and to the point.
- Take notes, write down any questions you can't answer, and get names of Hill staff. USCCB staff will follow up.
- If possible, get a quote for a press release.
- Thank the Legislator or staff.



FOLLOWING YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT

- Debrief with your group.
- One person will fill out the Hill Visits Report Form.
- One person will send a thank-you note or email.
- Blog or tweet about your meeting.
- Finalize your press release and send it to the media.

