

10 TIPS FOR WORKING WITH CONGRESS



ASK FOR HELP.

Federal Relations is happy to help you prepare to share your expertise with a policymaker.



LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND.

Leave behind a one-page document that reiterates your points and provides contact information.



KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING WITH.

Review the legislator's website and social media profiles to understand their background, community represented, committee assignments, and legislation introduced.



BE POLITE.

And always say "thank you." Policymakers do not respond well to demands, rudeness, threats, or hostility—no matter what you see on cable TV.



KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ... AND ASK FOR IT.

Whether it's to introduce a bill, reject an amendment, organize a hearing, hold a press conference, or write an op-ed, let them know.



STAY IN TOUCH.

Send a thank-you note and provide any follow-up materials you discussed.



BE BRIEF AND BE CLEAR.

Legislators are busy. Speak in lay terms, not jargon. Identify two or three easy-to-understand key points and present them quickly.



RESPOND QUICKLY.

Congress expects responses in hours, not days. If someone reaches out, get back to them. Even if that means just a quick note to acknowledge their request and promise a considered response.



MEET THE STAFF.

You are more likely to talk with staffers than a legislator, so get to know them. They are important—treat them as such.



REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT.

Politely follow up often in person and via email or social media—repetition cuts through the clutter.

Questions? Please contact us for further advice at federal@bu.edu.

