

Participate in ASCO's Advocacy at Home Program

Year-Round Advocacy

- Participating in ASCO's Advocacy at Home program allows you to better connect lawmakers with the communities you both serve - truly making a difference

Meet with Your Lawmakers Virtually or in their District/State Offices: There's No Place Like Home

- An in-district meeting is one with your legislators while they are in their home state or district
- These meetings take place at the lawmaker's local district or state office
- Some of the best meetings with Members of Congress occur when they are back home, away from the distractions and scheduling constraints of Capitol Hill
- These meetings can also take place virtually, giving you and the lawmaker the ability to meet from anywhere
- It provides you with the opportunity to build relationships with your lawmaker's office staff
- Maintaining contact with your lawmaker's office allows you to serve as a continued resource on cancer care
- While you may have the chance to meet with your lawmaker, their local staff may be more accessible
- Staffers have a direct line of communication with the Member of Congress, and are the first to bring issues affecting their constituents to the attention of the lawmaker
- The August Congressional recess is the best time to conduct these meetings because there is a greater chance your lawmaker will be back in the state/district
- Shorter recesses typically take place around federal holidays and are also good times to meet with your lawmakers



Dr. Carolyn Hendricks with Rep. John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA-13) at his district office in Altoona

Host Your Lawmaker for a Site Visit

- Inviting Congressional Members to visit your practice will provide them with a first-hand look into how cancer patients receive care
- Lawmakers are able to learn how oncologists utilize the latest treatments, innovations, and technologies to provide high quality care
- Most importantly, legislators will have the opportunity to see the commitment and compassion that the oncology care team provides cancer patients in their district every day

Meet with Your State or Local Lawmaker

- Legislative and regulatory activity at the state-level can dramatically shape cancer care and the practice of oncology
- The active participation of cancer care professionals in state advocacy is crucial
- Invite your local lawmakers to visit your practice and show them how their policy decisions affect your ability to care for your patients in their state
- Visit the State Advocacy page on ASCO.org for more information

- ▶ **Do you already have a relationship with your lawmaker?** ASCO often leverages existing relationships with you, the expert, to advance policies on Capitol Hill. If you are willing to share your relationship or want to learn more about the Advocacy at Home program email grassroots@asco.org.

Prior to the Meeting

- Prepare for the visit by reviewing talking points provided by ASCO staff to guide the conversation during your meeting
- Think about how to personalize your talking points with anecdotes and real patient stories that have impacted you as a provider

During the Meeting

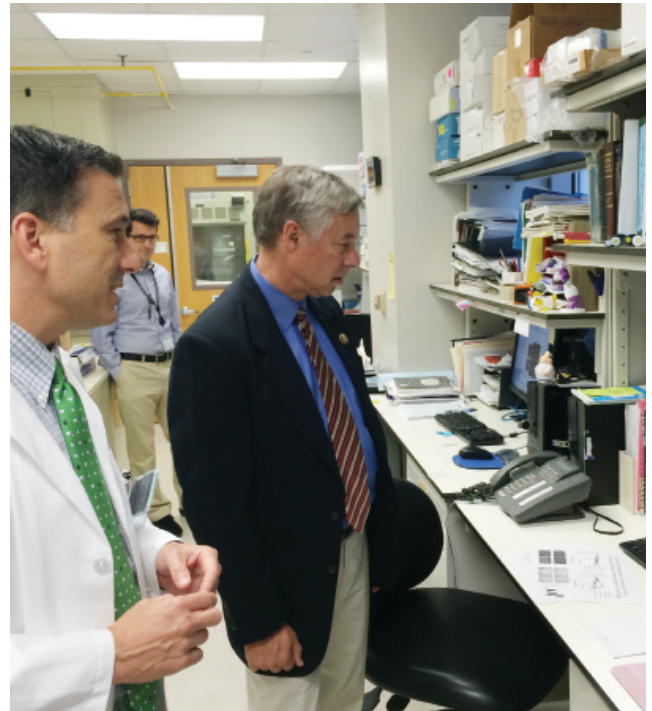
- Use talking points to make your case
- Solicit the Member's view on the issue(s), talk about merits
- Let the Member know how the issues affect cancer patients in their district
- Be clear about what your "ask" is

Closing the Meeting

- Thank them for their time
- Provide them with the leave behind folder (provided by ASCO)
- If possible, take pictures and send to ASCO and/or post to social media

Follow-up After the Meeting

- Tweet your lawmaker thanking them for the time
- Follow-up with the office with a short thank you note and offer to be a resource on any issue related to oncology care moving forward
- Be sure to let ASCO staff know how the meeting went



Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) in the lab at MD Anderson Cancer Center

Keep it simple: Most Members of Congress are not familiar with clinical terminology so use easy to understand language (Example: Pertuzumab = Breast cancer chemotherapy drug)

Make sure they leave with an understanding of how policies affect your ability to provide quality cancer care for their constituents

SAMPLE AGENDA FOR A SITE VISIT

Welcome and Introductions: Briefly describe your team members' responsibilities (5 minutes)

Overview: Give a brief explanation of technology, business operations and quality improvement tools and why they are important (10 minutes)

Tour (30 minutes)

Open Discussion: The host should open the discussion and encourage questions (15 minutes)

Conclusion: Thank the lawmaker and their staff and take a group photo (10 minutes)